SANDWELL
CHRONICLE

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TUNING IN

Music is the perfect tonic for patients

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SPURS PAIN

Tottenham show up Albion deficiencies

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TOWN'S EMPTY SHOPS SHAME

WEST Bromwich is among the top 10 towns in England with the most empty shops, new figures have revealed.

With a vacancy rate of 27.1 per cent – up 0.5 per cent on 2013 – West Bromwich is fourth on the list according to the Local Data Company's latest Mind The Gap report.

Report by John Corser

The survey looked at 3,000 town centres, shopping centres and retail parks, and found almost one in five shops in England's northern towns and cities are empty, compared with just one in 10 in the south.

For the West Midlands as a whole the vacancy rate is up 0.2 per cent at an average of 18.2 per cent. It was the only region to see an increase. The average rate for England is 13.1 per cent.

Walsall is in the top 10, at number nine at 26.2 per cent – down 0.5 per cent on 2013. Meanwhile there are three Staffordshire towns – Burslem, Hanley and Stoke-on-Trent – also featuring in the top 10.

Worst

Debden in Essex and Highgate in London with no empty shops topped the list of towns with the vacancy rate.

The rate of shop vacancies across the UK stood at 13.3 per cent at the end of last year, down from a February 2012 peak of 14.6 per cent.

The worst regional area is the North East, with a shop vacancy rate of 18.8 percent in the second half of 2014, a fall of 0.3 per cent on a year ago. The best region is London, with a vacancy rate of 8.7 per cent after a fall of 0.4 per cent..

The report also found that 20 per cent of all shops it tracked had been vacant for more than three years, which amounts to almost 10,000 outlets.

Local Data Company director Matthew Hopkinson said: "This is the equivalent of five Manchesters lying empty."

The North West has led the country in terms of shop vacancies since 2008 but has now been edged out by the North East.

Mr Hopkinson said: "At a regional level the polarisation between the North and the South is as wide as ever with London's vacancy rate being less than half that of the northern regions."

Last month Tesco said it will close 43 stores and scrap the opening of 49 new outlets, while Morrisons said it will shut 10 as a response to losses incurred during the ongoing supermarket price war.

Mr Hopkinson added: "While the numbers announced to date are small beer to the totals, the significance lies with the fact that whilst traditional shops have been closing it has been the supermarkets and convenience stores that have been expanding significantly. The question as to who will occupy these newly vacant stores as well as those, which have been empty for a while is a very difficult one to answer positively."

Leader in plea over standards for pupils

THE leader of Sandwell Council has urged borough secondary schools to continue to improve in the wake of a five place rise in the national performance tables.

Sandwell rose to 133rd position in the Key Stage 4 rankings, which rate schools in terms of pupils' gaining five or more A* to C-grades at GCSE, including English and maths. But Councillor Darren Cooper said he has called a meeting with headteachers in a bid to thrash out ways to further improve GCSE results in Sandwell's schools and academies.

In 2014, 50.7 per cent of pupils met the required standard for GCSE results, with the Q3 Academy leading the way as 75 per cent of its 179 pupils walked away with the benchmark standard. As a whole the borough's schools are still below the national average of 56.6 per cent, however.

Councillor Cooper, said: "It is good that we are getting improvements but I really think that our young people deserve a better deal with schools improving performance even more.

"I am disappointed that some schools are reporting figures of below 40 per cent of pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at grade C or above, including maths and English.

Homes site set for visit

COUNCILLORS will visit the site of a fire-ravaged Smethwick pub before making a decision on plans for a housing development.

Developers want to built 12 homes on the site of The Queens Head in Londonderry Road.

The pub has been left derelict after being targeted by arsonists in May last year.

Plans have been lodged with Sandwell Council to demolish it and replace it with flats.

Planners are due to visit the site on February 11.

Temple coining it in to help hospice

Temple founder Dr Kaninh Somasundara-Rajah, with Rhianna Cooper, left and Jennifer Chin, from the hospice

THOSE foreign coins lingering at the back of the wallet are usually seen as a nuisance to be discarded, but a Hindu temple in Sandwell has proved the unwanted euros and cents can make a difference to people's lives.

Trustees at the Shri Venkateswara Temple in Tividale have donated more than £2,000 from foreign coins to a Birmingham hospice.

The building, in Dudley Road East, is the largest Hindu temple in Europe attracting thousands of visitors from across the world and each year a collection box is provided for guests to give donations of coins from all over the world, including Europe, the United States and Malaysia, as well as other gifts including jewellery and rings.

Dr Kandiah Somasundara-Rajah, a trustee of the Shri Venkateswara Balaji Trust, which owns the temple, said between March 2013 and April 2014, £1.7 million was raised for the temple through the collection boxes, while he believed this year's figure would be the same.

The majority of the cash pays for improvements and maintenance work to the main temple and four other smaller places of worship affiliated to the trust in the local area, but the money made up from loose coins is usually donated to a charity of the temple's choice.

St Mary's Hospice in Birmingham, a charity that provides care for people with terminal illnesses to ensure they have the best quality of life during the time they have left, is to benefit from this year's cash donations.

He said: "We have chosen St Mary's because it is one of the nearest that provides this type of care." Dr Somasundara-Rajah said the temple was built using granite from India at a cost of £14 million and attracts on average 500,000 visitors a year.

Increase in burial charges is on cards

BURIAL fees and charges for leisure services will rise as part of a raft of increases proposed by cash-strapped Sandwell Council.

The cost of an adult cremation would jump from £607 to £631 from April this year under the plans.

And the price for an adult grave purchase and burial fee would rise from £2,450 to £2,548. The council is battling to meet multi-million cuts with around £40 million of cuts already having been identified for the next two financial years.

But bosses are working up plans to find a further £22 million – including a shake-up of how the council buys goods and how it tackles new public health duties – as part of the Facing the Future programme.

Council officers, in a report to the cabinet which met yesterday, said they had taken into account the 'needs of the service' in proposing a hike in fees.

Other increases would include a two per cent rise for hiring some halls at West Bromwich Town Hall, Wednesbury Town Hall and Smethwick Council House.

Deputy council leader, Councillor Mahboob Hussain, said the burial fee increases should be taken in context of investing in improvements and new services at its sites.

A&E targets are missed

SANDWELL'S hospital trust has just fallen short of hitting its accident and emergency waiting time target.

New figures show 92.8 per cent of patients were seen and treated within four hours at major accident and emergency departments operated by Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust for the week ending January 25.

The trust runs Sandwell General Hospital and Birmingham's City Hospital.

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CONTACT US

Have you got a story or an event you want covered? The Chronicle and Express & Star have a team of reporters covering Sandwell who can help:

Heather Large: 01384 353203
heather.large@expressandstar.co.uk
Alex Ross: 01384 353207
alex-ross@expressandstar.co.uk
Andrew Turton: 01384 353202
andrew.turton@expressandstar.co.uk
Lee Watton: 01384 353230
lee.watton@expressandstar.co.uk
Charlie Benton: 01384 353201
charlie.benton@expressandstar.co.uk

What's happening in your area? We are always keen to hear about any issues affecting you. E-mail your information and pictures to: Sandwell.Chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Sports:
Tel: 01902 319453, e-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

Photographic
Tel: John Sambrooks 01902 319431

Advertising:
Nicky Cope
01902 319573
Email nicola.cope@expressandstar.co.uk

Property:
Colin Bailey
Tel: 01902 4444331
E-mail: c.bailey@expressandstar.co.uk

Motoring:
Jayne La Hiffe
Tel: 01543 465344
E-mail: jayne.lahiffe@expressandstar.co.uk

Classified:
Tel: 01902 317878

Classified trade:
Tel: 01902 319191

Distribution:
Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990
E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

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Blueprint for future of force outlined

THE blueprint for the future of West Midlands Police will be unveiled next month.

The force will release the initial results of its partnership with Accenture, launched in August last year in a performance related five-year deal that could see the consultancy firm paid £25 million.

The first link-up with the private sector in its 40 year history is aimed at finding new ways of saving money without hitting the fight against crime.

Outline

It is intended to make better use of data and technology and changes in population make up while also reducing costs.

A report to the force's Strategic Policing and Crime Board meeting revealed that the blueprint and outline of work needed to deliver the necessary changes will be presented in March. The report concludes: "The blueprint has been described as the 'jigsaw box lid' that gives everyone involved a clear view of how the end-state organisation will look." The force has already handled a £125 million cut in government funding over the past four years while also reducing recorded crime by18 per cent. Now it faces finding savings of up to £100 more over the next five years.

A major shake-up of police buildings in Birmingham is already under way with its city centre Lloyd House HQ getting a £33million revamp expected to increase occupancy by 50 per cent by September and allow closure of premises.

City says farewell to their hero Sir Jack

THE Black Country said a tearful farewell to one of its favourite sons as thousands united for Sir Jack Hayward's funeral.

People lined the streets of Wolverhampton to pay tribute to the legendary 91-year-old former Wolves owner, who died last month.

A huge crowd gathered in a heaving Queen Square to watch Sir Jack's funeral on a giant screen. And hundreds packed into St Peter's Church for the funeral, attended by Sir Jack's long-time companion Patti Bloom and his three children Jonathan, Rick and Susan.

Led Zeppelin frontman Robert Plant and a host of former Wolves players and managers also attended the service, which fittingly lasted 90 minutes.

West Bromwich Albion chairman Jeremy Peace and star Joleon Lescott also attended. Jonathan and Rick gave readings during an emotional service, while a eulogy came from Sir Jack's friend of 45 years, Baroness Rachael Heyhoe Flint.

West Bromwich-born Plant and Wolves chief executive Jez Moxey also made contributions to the service. Baroness Heyhoe Flint said of her friend: "Wolves is Jack's legacy – his golden empire to the city. We loved him. He was loyal to us. We are so lucky to have shared his life."

Scarves

Fans threw scarves and shirts onto the hearse carrying Sir Jack as it left the church. They spontaneously sang 'thumbs up if you love Sir Jack' and his family gave them thumbs up in return.

Sir Jack's coffin was draped in a Union Flag and had an RAF service uniform on top. RAF pallbearers carried the coffin and a flypast of two helicopters travelled over Molineux in recognition of Sir Jack's military service.

It was a remarkable day for Wolverhampton. A day when the city did Sir Jack proud, after he himself had did it proud for 91 years.

They turned out in their thousands to bid farewell to a British legend, a Black Country legend and a Wolves legend.

There were tears, cheers, songs, laughs and endless tributes .

From as early as 9am, fans travelled to Molineux to begin paying their respects, five hours before the funeral began. There was a crisp and bitter chill in the air but the sun shone throughout on Sir Jack's city, on his day.

Fans congregated around the statue Sir Jack was so proud to build, of one of his heroes Billy Wright outside Molineux – the house that Sir Jack built. The atmosphere was jovial as fans swapped stories of Sir Jack and told of what he had done for the club they, and he, loved.

Scarves, banners, flags, flowers and shirts were laid and people queued to sign a book of condolence.

The Billy Wright Stand was opened at 12.30pm and hundreds made their way inside to see Sir Jack leave Molineux for the final time and say thank you to the man who saved their beloved club.

Many had booked the day off work especially to be there, while others had travelled from all over the country for a chance to say goodbye. For some quiet reflection; for others it was the chance to show their appreciationas with chants of 'Sir Jack Hayward he's one of our own' .

The coffin of former Wolves owner Sir Jack Hayward arrives at St Peter's Church

Albion chairman Jeremy Peace at the funeral

Two legends Steve Bull and Robert Plant

MP backs campaign on heart problems

A MP has backed a campaign calling on people in the Black Country to check their cholesterol levels.

Heart UK is urging people to get themselves tested as it seeks to raise awareness of cardiovascular disease.

It comes as the charity campaigns for better management of CVD at local level and funding to tackle the disease, which kills around 160,000 people every year, to be ring-fenced. The charity wants to stress the importance of people knowing and understanding their cholesterol levels.

MP for Warley John Spellar, who was among politicians who attended a testing event in the House of Commons, said: "I wholeheartedly endorse Heart UK's attempts to ensure that everyone knows their cholesterol and that the Government does all it can to ensure that patients at high risk of CVD are identified, managed and cared for in the best possible way.

"Cholesterol testing is simple, quick and painless and I would urge all adults to get themselves tested. I am committed to working with the local NHS and in Parliament to ensure that heart disease services remain a public health priority."

Body blow of Tesco closure

THE chairman of a traders group has spoken of his disappointment after Tesco announced it would be closing its store in Bearwood.

Tesco Express in Bearwood Road, will close on March 15 with 13 job losses. Meanwhile Tesco Metro in Smethwick's Tollgate Shopping Precinct will close on April 4, with 55 jobs lost.

Chairman of Bearwood Traders Richard Marshall said: "Just as the £5 million pound transformation of Lightwoods Park and House is about to get underway, we suffer another body blow on Bearwood Road."

Cinema date

A NEW Birmingham cinema at The Mailbox is to show its first film on February 27.

The new three-screen 12,000 sq ft Everyman Cinema will be the 12th in the Everyman chain.

The opening movies have yet to be announced.

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Art talent on show for pub's festival

A FESTIVAL to showcase the range of creative skills and flair in and around Cradley Heath takes place next month.

Locked-In is a festival to demonstrate the range of creative skills and flair in and around Cradley Heath.

On Saturday March 14, from 11am to 11pm, The Hollybush Pub Arts Venue on Newtown Lane will be staging the event.

The pub is opening its doors, free of charge, for anyone to view the talents of local musicians, actors, comedians, poets, film makers, dancers, photographers, crafts people and artists.

The day is hosted by Cradley Heath Creative, with support from Sandwell Community Chest. Highlights include the showing of the film, Chains, Dogs and CHAOS by Sara Tibbetts, commissioned last year by Multistory, in which she discovers her Cradley Heath roots.

Visitors can indulge in pork sandwiches and soup, with mulled wine and Pardoe's ales at the bar.

For details, or to register your interest phone Fran on 07952 563725 or visit FaceBook page Cradley Heath Creative. If you want to be part of the festival please register by February 23.

Crime figure app is a hit

STUDENTS who designed mobile phone app that gives people crime figures for their location are celebrating after being told it will go on sale across the country.

The Safe Nav app has been set up by teenagers from Shireland Collegiate Academy in Smethwick.

The app won an award at the Apps for Good Awards last June, and the students have spent the last six months working with development agency Codeten.

The students are Joshua Davis, Rikardo Szczerba, Ijahmar Innis, and Callum Ogleby, all 14.

15 jobs at firm

AN energy supplier is expanding its service to cover Walsall, creating 15 new jobs. Utilita Energy, which specialises in smart meter technology, is to take on customers in the town. The Hampshire-based company says the move will create 15 sales positions in the area.

Wrestler Alpha fired up for Cole bout

Wrestler Alpha Female

A COMEDIAN from the Black Country is set to follow in the footsteps of a comedy legend when he takes on one of the world's most feared female wrestlers in a charity challenge.

Jonny Cole has set aside the pies and chips and enlisted the help of a Hollywood stuntman in a bid to batter fearsome German grappler Alpha Female in September.

The Wednesbury funnyman is used to putting down hecklers, but he will have to rely on brute force and fighting skills when he comes face to face with the TNT Wrestling Federation world champion.

Standing at 6ft 1ins, the blonde bombshell towers over the diminutive Cole, who says he is acutely aware of the damage her near 200lb muscle-bound frame could do to a Blackcountryman forged on a diet of scratchings and pasties.

The contest harks back to the exploits of the late comedy great Andy Kaufman, who used to regularly battle women in the ring and once proclaimed himself the Women's Wrestling Champion of the World.

Cole, who professed he was blissfully unaware of the eccentric Kaufman's feats, said: "She's a big girl and already I'm beginning to think I may have bitten off more than I can chew."

Alpha Female – real name Marie Kristin Gabert – will return to British shores for the event for the first time since she starred in Challenge TV's Impact Wrestling last year.

In preparation for the September bout Cole has brought in Hollywood action hero Scott Atkins – best known for his role as Hector in The Expendables 2 – to get him in condition.

"I've known Scott for years and he was only too happy to help me out in my time of need," added 35-year-old Cole, who was last seen performing at a packed out Christmas show with Chas & Dave at Bilston's Robin 2. "This may be a bit of a laugh, but I'm determined to give it my best shot."

Proceeds from the event will go towards Women's Aid, the national charity that works towards ending domestic violence against women and children.

The contest takes place on September 11 at The Copthorne Hotel, Dudley. For tickets visit jonnycole.com

Comedian Jonny Cole

Five libraries saved from the axe after public outcry

FIVE Sandwell libraries which were at risk of closure as part of cost-cutting plans have been saved from the axe.

Sandwell Council has ruled out shutting the sites at Hill Top, West Bromwich; Oakham, Tividale; and Langley, Brandhall and Rounds Green, all Oldbury. But some could move to share buildings with other services while extra volunteers could also be recruited to help run them.

by Heather Large

While libraries could also start selling school text books in a bid to raise cash.

Members of the cabinet were last night asked to approve the next stage of the plans, which would see all the libraries stay open.

It means department bosses will now move forward with reviewing staffing levels and looking at whether libraries should move to alternative sites.

The council needs to save £700,000 from the library budget over the next two years.

Deputy leader of Sandwell Council Councillor Mahboob Hussain, said: "Significant government cuts to our budget means we have to look at different ways of providing services including our libraries.

"The model we are putting forward means no closures providing it is successful.

"We are looking at sharing spaces with partners, encouraging volunteers and possibly selling things like school text books from libraries in order to maintain these valuable assets to our communities. Any further decision on each library would only be made following more consultation."

In a report, neighbourhoods director Adrian Scarrott recommended'that the approach to deliver library services which are professionally managed, supported by partners and volunteers, in spaces that are shared with other organisations, as a way of avoiding library closures and changes to service provision, be endorsed'.

A consultation took place earlier this year with staff, library users and community groups.

The options looked at included converting them into smaller 'express' libraries and moving them to different sites with staff provided by other organisations.

It also considered moving them to alternative premises, keeping them open on the same sites but either run by more volunteers or sharing the buildings with other services.

The final option was to keep them the same.

During the consultation, library managers met with more than 150 people at five public meetings as well as 75 members of friends' group to get feedback. Sixty-two written responses were received to the consultation including some from residents and councillors.

NFL girls Bowl over the Baggies

Kansas City Chiefs Cheerleaders welcome the teams onto the pitch as they perform a guard of honour duty

THE Kansas City Chiefs' cheerleaders entertained the crowds and soaked up the atmosphere at the Hawthorns – as a build up to a weekend of Super Bowl fever.

As part of the build-up to Sunday's Super Bowl XLIX – the season finale in American Football – 12 of the Chiefs' cheerleaders travelled more than 4,000 miles to be in the Black Country.

The NFL side will play at Wembley in November as part of three 'international series' fixtures to be held at Wembley Stadium.

Having been introduced to the crowd of more than 25,000 the cheerleaders formed a 'guard of honour' for the players as they made their way onto the pitch on Saturday.

An American football signed by all 53 players from the NFL side was then presented to fans' favourite and coach Darren Moore.

In return the former centre back presented the Chiefs' cheerleaders with an Albion shirt. At half-time they performed two routines before returning to the stands to watch the remainder of the match.

Throughout the afternoon they were spotted in various parts of the ground taking photographs and selfies with supporters.

The visit was particularly exciting for one of the cheerleaders, who back in the USA is a soccer coach an also a former player in the top tier of women's football.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Countdown to city pub's return

A WELL-KNOWN canal-side pub that is being refurbished will reopen to the public next month creating 30 jobs.

The Fiddle and Bone in Birmingham city centre closed down more than a decade ago and is situated behind the Grade II* listed Roundhouse near Brindleyplace.

But now the venue, off Sheepcote Street, will enjoy a new lease of life thanks to a partnership between the building's owners, the Canal & River Trust, and Birmingham business Sherborne Wharf.

Four bars will be created with an outside seating area overlooking the canal.

Two hurt in crash on busy route

TWO people were taken to hospital after a crash on a road in Smethwick.

A woman had to be cut from her car following the collision in Bearwood Road at around 4pm last Friday. A man who was driving the other vehicle was also hurt.

They were both taken to City Hospital in Birmingham for treatment.

The road was closed between Millpool Way and Grange Road for more than an hour while firefighters freed the injured driver, causing delays in the area during rush hour.

Brum gig for funk godfather Clinton

US musician and singer George Clinton, known as the Godfather of Funk, is playing in Birmingham.

He will be appearing with his reformed bands Parliament/Funkadelic at the O2 Academy in Horsefair, Bristol Street, on April 19. Clinton, aged 73, who started his first doo wop group The Parliaments in the 1950s, was a songwriter for Motown in the 1960s before achieving fame in the 1970s.

Tickets for the Birmingham show, which is for over 14s only, are £25.

Skip hire company could create jobs

A PROPOSAL to convert a plot of derelict land into a skip hire company in Smethwick could create 10 new jobs if it received the backing of planners.

Under the proposals, put forward by Smethwick Skip Hire Ltd, the land adjacent to the New Navigation Inn, on King Street, would be converted into a recycling centre.

The site would be used for hiring out skips and waste storage.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

I HAVE just encountered my first 1914-2014 commemorative £2 coin with Lord Gray's epic words inscribed on the edge: "The lamps are going out all over Europe." What happens if you put it in an electricity meter?

MIXED metaphors. Auntie Beeb's online report on the consecration of the first CofE female bishop informed us: "While Anglicanism is a broad church, so to speak, they need to keep paddling hard to keep all its members on board." Damn right. Once you stop paddling, the grapes of wrath come home to roost.

IT is a terrible tragedy that a Greek air force F16 fighter jet crashed in Spain, killing 11 people. But it is also a reminder that poor, bankrupt Greece, a country at peace since 1949, possesses no fewer than 156 F16s costing 50 million dollars each. That's the way the money goes.

ANOTHER word bites the dust. According to the head of BBC Arabic, Tarik Kafala, the word "terrorist" is too "value-laden" and "loaded" He suggests reporters should say: "Two men killed 12 people" and leave it at that. One man's opinion appears to have become BBC policy which may explain why this week's terror attack by terrorists in Libya who inflicted terror on their terrified victims before killing them in a particularly terrifying manner, was not – according to the BBC – carried out by terrorists at all. They were "militants." The sooner we scrap the TV licence fee, the better.

A READER continues the thread on the grammatical difference between "fewer" and "less" and on pedantry in general. He writes: "Pedants are like little Hitlers. There ought to be fuhrer of them."

ED Balls says Labour is not considering a deal with the SNP to form a coalition government. Or to be exact, what he actually said was: "I don't think anybody is suggesting any suggestion of a deal with the SNP at all, we're fighting hard for a majority." Lots of wriggle-room there, then. Meanwhile, what is it with Ed Balls and his eyes? At every hint that the UK economy may be in trouble, his eyes glitter with pure glee. Unseemly, or what?

IF you're getting blasé about Ebola, here's something new to worry about. The death, in the space of a few hours of Thomas Cromwell's wife and two daughters, as seen in Wolf Hall (BBC1) actually happened. It was probably caused by something called the sweating sickness which appeared from nowhere, ravaged England during the 16th century and then vanished into history. It could kill healthy people in a single day and because nobody knows quite what it was, no-one can guarantee it won't return.

THE plan to scrap dozens of generals' jobs to cut the Army's top brass down to size inevitably sparks the old debate on the Royal Navy which is also top-heavy. But it is hard to compare the number of admirals (40) with the number of warships because there seem to be dozens of ways of defining a warship. The smallest figure is a paltry 19 but the RN insists the real figure is 77. However, in order to reach the total of 77, they include a rather old ship which, largely for sentimental reasons, is still on the navy's strength. HMS Victory.

SO farewell, Lotte Hass, widow of Hans, who has died aged 86. Back in the 1950s the Hasses hosted a series of underwater films on telly, taking us kids to the depths of the Caribbean or wherever. Lotte, a beautiful, svelte, blonde former model, would slip into her cozzie, enter the limpid water and glide serenely across our nine-inch Pye. As a very small and impressionable boy I remember thinking if I couldn't marry Maid Marion, I'd settle for Lotte.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Extra £24m to fund key schemes

THE Government has promised the Black Country another £24 million of growth money to fund key projects.

The cashpot comes on top of the £138 million Growth Deal for the Black Country secured last summer.

The latest pledge will go towards the expansion of Wolverhampton City College, new homes in Walsall and hi-tech railway centre in Dudley. Previous funding is paying for a string of developments including a radical revamp for the Civic Halls in Wolverhampton and a major expansion of Junction 10 of the M6 at Walsall.

The Government has moved to top-up the funding, clearing the way for three more projects.

The additional schemes include:

- The creation of a Light Rail Innovation Centre in Dudley which will specialise in prototype vehicle design and construction, as well as providing education, and research and development facilities to local businesses. It will receive £4.5m.
- The strategic development of Wolverhampton City College to support at least 3,000 learners and 50 businesses.
- Around £6m to help to bring forward sites for housing and jobs, including £2.3m in Sandwell, and £400,000 towards the development of Walsall Waterfront.

The Growth Deal in the Black Country is being run by the Local Enterprise Partnership.

Black Country LEP chairman Stewart Towe said: "The expansion of the Black Country Growth Deal is welcome news."

Pirate scene that cost film industry millions

A GLOBAL search for members of an underground film piracy racket has led to the Black Country.

Named 'The Scene', the shadowy online gang has cost Hollywood millions of pounds and been responsible for thousands of movies, television shows, music, games and ebooks being made available for free on the internet.

Now, in a world first, five men have pleaded guilty to being involved in the criminal enterprise.

Following a three-year investigation, Sahil Rafiq, aged 24, of Warnford Road, Merry Hill, Wolverhampton, and 33-year-old Ben Cooper, of Dilloways Lane, Willenhall, have admitted conspiracy to defraud.

They were joined at Wolverhampton Crown Court by Reece Baker, aged 22, from Digby House, Colletts Grove, Birmingham; Scott Hemming, 25, of Perry Common Road, Birmingham; and Graeme Reid, 40, of Kingsclere Walk, Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

Movies

Together, they were part of a plot believed to have resulted in copies of up to 9,000 films being watched by as many as five million people in less than four years.

The copyrighted material includes blockbuster movies, high-profile TV series, computer games, music, online apps, ebooks and pornography.

The defendants were involved in the piracy of films between March 2010 and January 2014. And it is alleged that groups either involving them personally or set up by them illegally posted between 7,000 and 9,000 movies online.

Federation Against Copyright Theft said this was the first time anywhere in the world that members of The Scene had been prosecuted for core activities.Rafiq,

by John Scott

Cooper, Baker, Hemming and Reid each pleaded guilty to conspiracy to defraud, in that they conspired together, and with others unknown, to defraud such persons as have an interest in films by making, copying, distributing or making available on line infringing copies of films.

No further evidence was given but the court heard there were 7,000 pages of exhibits.

The film pirates were each released on bail and will be sentenced later in the year when the full depth of the case will be outlined.

Recorder Nicholas Cartwright warned them: "The fact I am adjourning the case and giving you bail should not be taken as any indication of what the sentence is likely to be."

Members of The Scene go to great lengths to conceal their true identity and use tags or codes to identify themselves online to other members of the racket.

They get hold of the material through a variety of methods. Some use camcorders to record films at the cinema as soon as they have been released, with the race being on to be the first to provide a free copy online.

Others make duplicates from 'screeners', which are advance screenings sent to critics, film festival judges or on panels deciding awards such as the Oscars and other film industry professionals.

Lucky escape caught on CCTV

CCTV footage shows the low loader veering into the emergency refuge area

THIS is the jaw-dropping moment an RAC driver had a 'miraculous' escape after a lorry ploughed into him while he fixed a car at the side of the M6.

Mark Wootton was working in an emergency refuge area on April 28 last year when the low loader careered into him then drove off. The 40-year-old was found 'screaming in agony' by another driver and was rushed to hospital where X-rays revealed he had suffered two fractured vertebrae.

CCTV footage released by West Midlands Police shows how lorry driver Terence Poolman, aged 69, lost control and smashed into the unsuspecting RAC worker.

The 24-second video shows the yellow low-loader swerving from the inside lane to the hard shoulder before crushing Mr Wootton against the broken down car.

Another lorry driver saw Mr Wootton in pain at the side of the northbound carriageway and dialled 999.

Motorway CCTV cameras failed to pick up the low loader's number plate but police managed to track it down using a catering van seen travelling behind.

The driver had been so shocked he jotted down the registration plate and police were able to trace it to to a depot in Shifnal.

Poolman, of Shifnal, was interviewed but claimed to have no memory of the collision.

He pleaded guilty to causing serious injury by dangerous driving and was jailed for

The low loader crashes into Mr Wootton

eight months and banned from driving for two years at Birmingham Crown Court.

Prosecutor Mark Phillips said Mr Wootton had been called to a breakdown between junctions six and seven. He had towed the vehicle from the hard shoulder to the refuge area and was attaching safety lights when he was struck by Poolman.

The court heard Mr Wootton may not be able to return to his job as an emergency recovery driver.

Laura Culley, defending, said it was a mystery how the incident occurred. She said Poolman had not been speeding or tired and had undergone a medical assessment which had not revealed any problem.

Top firms' fortunes continue to grow

THE 200 biggest West Midlands companies have continued their post-recession revival, scoring a hat-trick of increasing revenues, profits and international sales, according to a new report.

The top 200 companies in the West Midlands Report 2015, from accountants BDO, saw net profits increase by 52 per cent to £7.6 billion, compared to £5bn the previous year. Group revenues grew by 13 per cent to £124bn.

International sales also flourished, more than doubling from £14.4bn to £31.4bn in just two years, with overseas expansion being described as 'the guiding principle' for growth for regional businesses.

There are 34 Black Country businesses in the top 200 with a combined turnover of £12.5bn, including AF Blakemore & Son, Poundland and Assa Abloy in Willenhall, Barhale and Castings in Walsall, East End Foods in West Bromwich, Sandvik and Eriks in Halesowen, Geopost in Smethwick, Brindley Garages and Tangent Trading in Dudley.

Also listed are 17 Staffordshire firms including Alstom in Stafford, Palletways in Lichfield, Briggs Equipment in Cannock and JCB.

Police calls hit by fault

YEMERGENCY 999 calls in the West Midlands were delayed after a technical fault.

People phoning 999 for police assistance last Wednesday (January 28) were diverted to the Staffordshire force instead.

Problems were reported with the non-emergency 101 number at the same time, with people being left on hold.

The issue lasted around an hour before engineers fixed the fault.

A West Midlands Police spokesman said: "The technical fault has now been fixed."

Shop deal signed

A NEW Cash Converters store is opening in Bloxwich. The firm has agreed a 10-year lease to take a unit in the high street.

It comes as the group continues its expansion programme across the West Midlands where it has around 20 stores.

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Amritsar probe call by group to parties

A SIKH group is targeting 50 constituencies, including many in the Black Country, with their own manifesto.

The Sikh Federation said it wanted to use the 'voting clout' of the community to secure an investigation into the massacre at the Golden Temple in Amritsar in 1984 among other things.

This manifesto was developed after around thousands of people attended the September 2014 National Sikh Convention at the Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Sedgley Street, Wolverhampton over three days.

The organisation is calling for candidates in each of the constituencies to set out their position, and those of their party, on the manifesto issues.

In the West Midlands the ones being targeted are Conservative-held Wolverhampton South West, Walsall North, Walsall South, Dudley North, Wolverhampton North East, Wolverhampton South East, West Bromwich East and West Bromwich West.

Tens of thousands of Sikhs marched in London in June 2014 to commemorate the 1984 Amritsar massacre and support calls, repeated in the manifesto, for an independent inquiry into UK Government involvement.

Tower block tales sought

A NEW community project in the Black Country is collecting stories about life living at height in the area's tower blocks. The Black Capital Project is receiving support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and is being run by the Distinctly Black Country network.

It wants to hear from people who have lived in high-rise council housing, and from those who may have been involved in planning, building or managing tower blocks.

E-mail distinctlyblackcountry@wolverhampton.gov.uk or call 01902 552046.

CAB questions

STAFF from the Citizens Advice Bureau will answer questions during two sessions at Brandhall Library. They take place from 10am to midday on Monday and 2-4pm on February 16. For details call 0121 422 5270 or email brandhall_library@sandwell.gov.uk

Campaigners reassured over pub demolitions

The Haden Cross pub, Cradley Heath

PUBS listed as community assets will not be demolished or changed to other uses without prior planning permission, campaigners have been told.

And campaigners who stopped a convenience store being built on a pub car park have been assured there would be no payout if their calls for it to be listed are accepted.

Hundreds signed a petition opposing New River Retail's £1 million plan for the Co-Operative store next to the Haden Cross Inn in Halesowen Road, in Cradley Heath.

Sandwell Council, which rejected the plans, is considering using the Localism Act to get the pub listed as an 'asset of community value'. If a building or land is listed as an ACV then it allows the community to put together a bid to buy it should it go on sale.

But the proposed changes mean an ACV-listed pub will lose its rights to be demolished or have its use changed without a planning application.

This move gives fresh hope to campaigners trying to save the Seven Stars in Sedgley. There were concerns such a listing might leave a council open to a compensation demand – fears allayed by Communities Minister Stephen Williams. Under the listing, the pub has to be offered to the community if put up for sale.

Mr Williams said: "The Localism Act makes it clear that if 21 people come forward and say 'this is an asset of community value to us', the local authority should list it unless the criteria set out in the Act apply."

Councillor Anne Shackleton, who has been campaigning to protect the Haden Cross, said: "New River has assured us that the Haden Cross Inn will remain a pub.

"If that is the case there is no harm from it being listed as an asset of community value."

Health of borough 'put at risk' by bus emissions

AGEING buses churning out harmful nitrogen oxide gases could be endangering the health of residents and pedestrians in a busy Black Country street.

Steve Eling, deputy leader of Sandwell Council, said a pollution survey was conducted on the council's behalf in Bearwood Road, between Bearwood and Smethwick.

He said it revealed that although buses comprised only six per cent of the traffic, they contributed 57 per cent of the pollution.

These fumes included nitrogen oxide, which can cause swelling of throat tissues in the upper respiratory tract and CO2, which damages the environment.

Councillor Eling believed the problem was caused by older buses run by operator National Express West Midlands which needed replacing with newer models and he has called on the operator to carry out the change.

He said the firm was still using Euro 4 classification buses, which are 10 years old, while he believed some 30 per cent of the buses using Bearwood Road were 15 years old and therefore did not meet the expected emissions targets.

He wanted to see more Euro 6 buses, which came into service on September 14, using the number 11 route which covers areas including Stechford, Yardley, Perry Barr, Harborne and Bearwood.

"We can't tolerate this level of pollution." he said.

National Express spokesman Jack Kelly said: "This year we are investing record amounts on new buses that will see newer vehicles in Bearwood and the wider area."

Crackdown in force on boy racers

A ROUTE in Wednesbury will be one of four targeted in a new clampdown against boy racers.

The four Black Country boroughs have succeeded in gaining orders banning illegal car cruising and meetings.

Police will be out enforcing the ban in Axletree Way, Wednesbury, the Toys R Us car park, in Oldbury, and along Kelvin Way, in West Bromwich, near The Hawthorns and Hallens Drive and Patent Drive off the A41.

Sandwell Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper said the ban would help ease problems for other motorists and residents caught up in the problems.

"Police will be enforcing the order because of the nature of the behaviour and the power of arrest, which is part of the order, he said.

"It is hoped this Black Country-wide order will act as a deterrent and prevent further cruising or meets to make it safer for local residents and to cut the level of nuisance this practice brings to communities."

Former Dexys star in album giveaway

Former Dexys Midnight Runners member Kevin Archer who is giving away copies of an old album

A FOUNDING member of chart-toppers Dexys Midnight Runners is giving away copies of an album he cut in the late-80s. Kevin 'Al' Archer said he wanted to get the work 'out there'.

The 56-year-old launched Dexys in 1978 with Kevin Rowland and played a key role in its early success as guitarist.

Mr Archer, who has lived in Cradley Heath since the late 60s, left the band in early 1981 forming The Blue Ox Babes. Their debut single was released in 1988 and an album titled Apples & Oranges was recorded but was not released by record company Go! Discs.

The album was finally issued by Cherry Red Records in 2009 but only sold around 1,000 copies before the company pulled out. There has been no further issue of the record.

Mr Archer has now purchased some of the remaining copies and is giving away 50 of them to fans and people eager to hear the music. "I have always been really proud of the album and just want to get the music out there," he said.

"It is unfortunate the album has not had the exposure it could have and I want to do something about that.

"There is no financial incentive in it for me. I just want as many people to hear the music as possible and this seems like a good way to do it."

Mr Archer is currently working on new music and said he is now looking to find the right people to play it.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Homes scheme for police site

A FORMER police station could be converted into shared accommodation under new plans.

The station in Perry Hill Road, Oldbury, closed in 2013 as part of cost-cutting measures by West Midlands Police and has since been vacant. In September last year Sandwell Council gave the green light to convert the two semi-detached properties into homes.

But now the same applicant, Hazhar Iqbal, is seeking permission to convert the site into shared living accommodation known as a 'house in multiple occupancy'.

Footballer denies assaulting player

A FOOTBALLER has denied assaulting an opposition player who sustained a broken jaw during a match.

Max Black, of Walsall Wood FC, pleaded not guilty to assault causing actual bodily harm at Walsall Magistrates Court.

Stourport Swifts player Karl Fellowes was injured during the New Year's Day clash.

Black, aged 21, of Inglewood Grove, Streetly, was granted unconditional bail until a trial on June 11.

Cast performs its latest stage show

A THEATRE group will stage its latest play in the Black Country.

The All Saints Players will be showcasing their version of of the comedy I'll Get My Man.

It will be staged from May 5 to 8 at All Saints Church, off All Saints Way, West Bromwich.

Performances start at 7.30pm. Tickets cost between £4 and £4.50. Call Kath on 0121 588 4786.

Homes may come in at site

A SOCIAL club in Pelsall is poised to be demolished and replaced with a new building and homes, despite concerns over traffic and parking.

A smaller Pelsall Labour Club is earmarked under the plans, which will see also see 24 homes built on the land off Church Road.

Objections have been lodged.

Plant in forest

ROCK legend Robert Plant is the third and final act to be announced to appear at a series of live outdoor concerts on Cannock Chase. The West Bromwich-born ex-Led Zeppelin star performs on July 11.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

THE ITV series Bring Back Borstal finished last week, with programme makers declaring it an unqualified success. Three months after filming ended, not one of the 13 miscreants who were supposedly subjected to the rigours of a 1930s borstal regime, have reoffended. And many of them ended up landing jobs.

Now look, anything which involves gobby louts being turned out of bed at the crack of dawn, being made to dress like Just William and spending their days shovelling manure is fine by me. But I do think it is stretching things branding it 'a unique social experiment'.

For a start, the bad lads had all volunteered to take part in the series, some because they wanted to turn their lives around, others probably because they thought it might make minor celebrities out of them. If White Dee can manage it, why not?

How many 1930s borstals allowed inmates to leave at any time if they didn't feel at home ? And there probably aren't that many young offenders who, on their first day in custody, politely concede: 'I think I just need to grow up a bit'.

Even more ridiculous was the way the boys reacted when they were thrown out for bad behaviour, with one of them bemoaning the loss of 'a once in a lifetime opportunity'. Opportunity? What did he think it was? The Apprentice for chavs?

Watching cocky yobs being brought down a peg or two is always good television, and I'm sure that if prisons were a bit less cushy, and focused a little more on teaching feckless about the real world, then the rewards would be great.

But a ground-breaking social experiment? Leave it out. The lads had already decided to turn their backs on crime, and their experience was so cushy that most of them were sad to leave.

This wasn't a borstal. It was just a long school field trip.

❑❑❑❑❑

HERE is a revolutionary suggestion on how to tackle the 'crisis in the NHS'. For all the political posturing over the past few weeks, the real reason why so many people are having to wait at A&E is not because the system is in need of radical reorganisation, or even because it is short of money. It is simply because too many people are going there.

The number of patients going through the doors of accident and emergency wards has increased relentlessly over the past few years, with stories about people with toothache, constipation and bad toenails becoming the stuff of legends.

But when politicians keep blathering on about 'world class' health care, is it any wonder that some of the more intellectually challenged members of society treat A&E like a sort of spa resort for when they are feeling a bit under the weather?

The building from where the station is broadcast

Station manager Phil Blackstaffe picks out a record

The original Sandwell Hospital Radio sign

Music to ears of hospital patients

Sandwell Hospital Radio is marking its 30th year on the air. **CHARLIE BENTON** takes up the story

FOR more than three decades a team of volunteers at Sandwell Hospital Radio have given up their time to brighten up the lives of patients.

Taking to the airwaves between 4 and 10pm on weeknights and all day on a Sunday, they do their best to inject a bit of joy into what can be an unsettling time for many people.

This week the team marked the station's 30th anniversary, looking back on its history playing music throughout the wards at Sandwell General.

The station first started out in 1985, in a humble basement in a less than prime location next to the hospital's morgue, and was known as Sandwell Valley Radio.

New York rockers Foreigner topped the charts with I Want to Know What Love Is at the time the station first started broadcasting.

Decks

Station manager and Sunday DJ Phillip Blackstaff, of Hillcrest Road, Great Barr, said the inner workings of the station had changed over time since he started in 2000.

Mr Blackstaff, a National Express bus driver when not at the decks, said: "When I first started I used to go around getting requests, which we still do, and compile the playlists.

"We have over 38,000 songs on CD and vinyl and 43,000 on the computer – there's something for everybody.

"The technology has changed over the years, it's mostly on computer now."

Mr Blackstaff recalls the moment he first decided to try his hand at becoming a hospital radio DJ.

He said: "I first got into hospital radio after watching the TV show London's Burning. One of the characters on there was doing it and I thought 'I would like to have a go at doing that'."

He said he believed hospital radio played a real part in supporting patients – and helping them feel part of the community.

He said: "We want people who have to come into the hospital to know the hospital radio is there for them. We can play their requests and are here to help them get better."

Within the first year the station moved out of the basement and now has a dedicated building near the courtyard garden in the Newton Block.

Mr Blackstaff said there had been many memorable moments over the years, including some that weren't exactly good for business.

"I remember when the computer blew up in 2006 and we lost £20,000 worth of kit," he said. "It was during a power down at the hospital to check the electronics and the computer had been left on.

"We lost quite a lot of material but luckily most of it was backed up." The staff at the station, who are all volunteers, held a get-together to mark the milestone. The studio was also decorated and shows ran all day across Friday and the weekend, with pupils from nearby Great Barr Primary invited along on Monday and Tuesday to present their own shows.

Assistant Station Manager Shaun Broadley, aged 43 from Hillingford Avenue, Great Barr, said: "We have 12 volunteers.

"None of us are paid and we all have jobs outside of the station. I am a kitchen assistant at the Malt Shovel in Great Barr. We are always on the lookout for more volunteers.

"The more staff we have the more shows we are able to put on. We currently run from 4pm until 10pm on weekdays, and all day Sunday, but eventually we would like to have enough staff to be able to go from 7am until 10pm, putting the computers on automatic from 10pm onwards so the music plays overnight."

Presenter Michelle Broadley spins the tunes to broadcast her show

Message

Mr Broadley, who has worked at the station since 2010, has said he would like to see the station expand.

"I would like to see the station go online because if you can get the shows online then every bloke and his dog can listen to us.

"We would still be focusing on the hospital, but it would widen our reach, for example family members who live far away and can't manage to visit their loved ones in hospital could put out a request for a song with a message which would mean a lot.

"On the other hand, if there is a problem at the hospital, like a clinic shutting for the day, the hospital could come to us and let us know so we could put it out on the radio and tell people not to turn up."

Mr Broadley previously worked on hospital radio in Dudley before he moved to Sandwell and said he believes it is important for patients.

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

ED Miliband's question and answer session in Staffordshire proved why we need the TV debates.

The Labour leader drew a crowd of around 200 members of the public to quiz him on what he'd do if he became Prime Minister.

It was a far cry from the 25,000 Sir Winston Churchill drew to Molineux in 1949 when he was leader of the opposition, although pretty impressive for a Monday lunchtime in January in an age when politicians of all parties are as popular as hedgehogs in a balloon factory.

But I have to admit, I think I was too cynical last week when I raised the prospect of the event being filled by only Labour supporters.

There were plenty of sceptics. Indeed one of the audience, from the Support Stafford Hospital campaign, walked out of the Aquarius Ballroom in Hednesford at the end vowing to never vote Labour again.

Throwing the topics open to the floor brought some interesting results, given that Mr Miliband and the organisers had no prior warning or control over them.

There was not a single question on Europe. Not one query about immigration. Not a dicky bird asked about the deficit.

Comfortable

There were, however, questions about health, the future of Stafford Hospital in particular, support for children with special needs, the minimum wage and plenty of things that Mr Miliband was generally comfortable answering.

He was clear that there would be no false promises on Stafford Hospital. But other than an 'undertaking' to review the downgrade on 'medical' grounds rather than 'penny pinching', there was not enough to prevent the aforementioned member of the support campaign from vowing members would stand in council wards in May.

I wonder what David Cameron would say if he faced the same questions. The parties are not showing their differences on the same issues but fighting on vastly different issues.

For UKIP it's all about immigration and Europe. For the Tories it's all about the economy and for Labour it's a game of 'whose recovery is this anyway' and suggesting that those at the top are still the ones benefitting at the expense of everyone else.

At Prime Minister's Questions Mr Miliband and Mr Cameron will argue but on totally separate points. I really hope the TV debates go ahead, particularly the head-to-head between the two men vying to be Prime Minister. At least then they'd have to take the same questions and be judged accordingly. Until then we'll have to cope with each party trying to set the agenda with their own spin machine.

Bus passengers left in the cold

RE: The complete lack of heating on buses

I recently travelled on the 4H bus from the Saddlers bus station at Walsall to Halesowen, a one hour journey. There was no heating on the bus. By the time I reached Black Heath I was unable feel my feet and had to stamp them to get the feeling back.

This is not an isolated case. This is happening all the time and as the temperature is hardly above freezing even at midday why is there no heating on the buses?

Yet in the heat of summer the heaters are on full blast. Why is that? Does an Australian run things these days? Is this some new-fangled way to get the pensioners to exercise 'stamp your feet, clap your hands, try not to freeze'?

Arriva have a better idea, they now are hiring in a new bus with sockets all along each wall of the bus – so you can take along your foot warmer, coffee machine and tablet. Whatever next?

What a joke – but once again it's the long suffering passengers who have to put up with it.

M Lloyd, Wednesbury

Continuity of supply threatened

LABOUR'S seductive promise to freeze energy prices may be having the effect of keeping prices too high.

The recent significant fall in oil prices is a powerful argument to reduce energy tariffs and the government is bringing pressure on suppliers to do just that.

The slowness of energy companies to reduce prices and pass their cost savings onto the consumer may stem from a fear that lower prices could be the benchmark for any Labour price freeze and that such a freeze might be imposed against a backdrop of rising oil prices.

Well-intentioned but crude attempts to impose solutions, regardless of market conditions can produce precisely the unwanted consequences which that action aims to avoid.

An energy price freeze risks fixing prices too high or destroying the profitability of energy companies which fund the pensions of many. It may also threaten the continuity of supply.

Paul Ratner
Conservative PPC
West Bromwich West

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Sandwell Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Others to gain from university's loss

REGARDING Dr Carl Chinn's university post being terminated. The man has been a major influence of my life since meeting him several years ago, and whether someone fills the post or not, they will find it hard to stand in his shoes.

Those who will suffer from the university's action are all those students who worked or would have worked under him.

I only have to listen to a revamped BBC Radio WM to be sure the hole left by Carl's show being axed will be similar to the one left at his university.

From the first time I appeared on his show talking about my first book Chant of the Mutha Tung, Carl has been someone I have held with great respect. He has supported me through all my ventures and his encouragement has given me confidence to publish, record, organise events and carry out talks which grow and grow through his encouragement.

For over a year I have hosted a radio programme The Omma n Chain that is modelled on his WM programme, platforming all that is local in the Black Country and Brum.

The university's loss will be others' gain, that I am sure of. I know he will remain an influence on the projects I am working on now and in the future and he is the first port of call I take when I need advice.

Dr B Dakin
aka Billy Spake Mon
Tividale

Deterrent to dog mess

THIS week, a poem about dog mess not being picked up was printed.

Numerous readers write letters and often councils say there's a problem. I agree dog mess is disgusting and a health hazard.

There's a solution. BBC Ceefax Wales news stated a US firm (Poo Paws) have technology to extract DNA from dog mess to prove who the owner is.

If councils are interested, then it's a deterrent. Councils would have DNA proof to take the guilty to court.

I believe fewer owners would risk it, and those who did, even those whose dogs are off the lead and they can say 'It's not mine', would be identified.

Then, innocent dog owners who do pick up the mess, can be protected from the moaners who wrongly accuse them.

J Adams
Rowley Regis

Bootleggers to reap benefits

PLAIN packaging won't stop people smoking, but it will be a money maker for the counterfeiters.

No more printing or colour matching, just plain packets. Just how much are these experts paid to come up with these barmy ideas?

We've had hiding them in cupboards, now plain packets hidden in a cupboard. And people still smoke.

Only education will stop people lighting up. Until then perhaps our experts would stop their ideas that have bootleggers laughing all the way to the bank.

ST Vaughan
Birmingham

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Benefits con guard given jail sentence

A CHEATING security guard who claimed £34,000 in benefits by patrolling sites with his dog while alleging he could barely walk has been jailed for six months.

By John Scott

Dayle Leatherland filled in self-assessment forms claiming he was so severely disabled he could not tie his own laces and was unable to work, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The 51-year-old, of Tipton, even launched his own business while illegally pocketing state payouts before the six-year scam was exposed. He admitted six fraud charges.Prosecuting, Mr Mark Jackson said the defendant even insisted he required a stick to rise from a chair as well as needing help to get in and out of bed.

Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) investigators discovered details of him being employed by companies to guard sites and go out on patrol with his dog, the court was told.

Official documents showed Leatherland first applied for permission to transport guard dogs to and from jobs back in August 2007 and this continued until the DWP probe uncovered the racket in May 2013. In total, he was paid £33,924 in incapacity benefit, disability living allowance and income support to which he was not entitled.

The defendant, who ran the security guard business called D. Leatherland Dog Handling Services from his home in Cochrane Close, began making legitimate claims after being badly hurt in a fall from a balcony in 1989 but never reported improvements in his condition, said Mr Adrian Stephens, defending.

Leatherland had also built up £56,000 debts installing a conservatory and adding an extension to his home, it was said. He still owes around £2,000.

Demolition planned for city tower block

103 Colmore Row, which is to be knocked down to make way for a new city centre office building

DEVELOPERS hope to start work demolishing one of the tallest city centre tower blocks in Birmingham in March, before replacing it with a brand new building.

The 1970s building, 103 Colmore Row, was once occupied by NatWest but has been empty since 2003.

New owners, developer Sterling Property Ventures and its funders Rockspring, bought the central business district's tallest office building from British Land in November. They are now asking Birmingham Council for permission to demolish the building. The piece-by-piece dismantling of the 22-storey concrete-panelled tower is expected to take between 10 and 12 months.

Its site, in a conservation area on the corner of Colmore Row and Newhall Street, has consent for a 35-storey tower. However, Sterling and Rockspring are revising these plans and proposals for a smaller scale development, similar in size to the existing structure, are being drawn up.

Sterling and Rockspring have also submitted plans for the interim landscaping of the site, in case of a delay in starting the new building.

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Tesco jobs blow as axe falls on region's stores

MORE than 80 Tesco workers across the Black Country have paid the price for the supermarket giant's recent failures.

The UK's biggest grocer is axing 43 stores which it says were failing to make enough money as it struggles to turn around sliding sales and profit figures. Some 2,000 jobs in all will go.

The Smethwick Metro store will close on April 4 with the loss of 55 jobs. The Tesco Express in Bearwood Road, Smethwick, will close on March 15, with the loss of 13 posts, while another 15 will be made redundant when the Walsall Wood Tesco Express closes on the same day.

Ninder Johal, president of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, said: "I hope other supermarkets in the convenience store market will fill those gaps on the high street and employ the people who have now been told they will no longer have jobs."

Pauline Foulkes, national officer at the shopworkers union Usdaw, said: "This is devastating news for over 2,000 dedicated staff in the 43 Tesco stores across the UK, who have worked hard to make their shop viable during a difficult time for the company.

"Our priority is to maximise employment within Tesco, seek redeployment opportunities for members, where possible, and to keep job losses to a minimum."

Customers at the Bearwood Express store said they were disappointed with the decision.

One customer, 74-year-old Doris Smith, said: "It is sad because it is useful to get the bits and pieces that you need without having to go out and do a big shop.

"The staff are always very friendly and it is a shame for them too."

Announcing the closure, new Tesco chief executive Dave Lewis said: "The decision to close the stores has been exceptionally difficult to take. I recognise it will affect many hard-working colleagues, our customers and local communities."

Pop Superstar cheques in

Jamelia hands over the cheque, watched by theatre pupils, community fundraiser Katie West, left and events fundraiser Lilly Pye

POP star Jamelia lent a hand to a stage school by helping them present a £900 cheque to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Jamelia, known for her hit track Superstar, is a patron of the Theatre Workshop at the Priory School in Edgbaston, and agreed to present the cheque after the group raised the money through their Christmas Recital last year.

The Birmingham singer also took time out of her busy schedule to talk to some of the pupils about her career.

Director Suzy Bleasdale said: "Jamelia got involved with the school last year by agreeing to be our patron.

"She is really supportive of the work we do here as the training we provide is the sort of thing you can usually only find in London.

"As she was our patron she found out we were presenting the cheque to the hospital and agreed to help us. We were thrilled that we raised over £900 for the hospital's cancer appeal."

The Theatre workshop is looking for new pupils. It is open to people aged from six-to-18-years-old.

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Revolution in denture provision

A CHAMPION for denture wearers, Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS(Eng) has spent more than ten years campaigning to "break the taboo over false teeth and prove that high-quality dentures can indeed be nothing short of life-changing."

Evangelical about what new-generation denture prescriptions can achieve, he says the palette of solutions to deliver a more youthful, engaging smile has never been so great, with traditional, high-quality handmade-on-the-premises prosthetics; suction diaphragm dentures; and implant-retained over-dentures.

"People have come to us with ill-fitting teeth, sunken cheeks and pinched lips and we have been privileged to transform their looks, providing teeth that not only are aesthetically pleasing and hugely functional, but also successfully support facial structures just like their real teeth once did. It can take years off people."

Can dentures ever be glamorous? "Emphatically, yes," adds Steven.

Strident advances in technology, improved materials and revised clinical procedures are all helping "to drive the denture revolution forward and indeed introduce a real sense of natural-looking glamour to what can be accomplished," he says.

Suction solution is this the answer for you?

A CUTTING-EDGE development that helps to resolve the stability problems faced by thousands of denture wearers is being offered by the Denture Clinic.

Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC108353, who heads the teams at his North Street practice in Dudley, and other clinics across the region, says the invention has the potential to resolve all-too-common denture stability issues.

Prosthetics are held in place by tiny valve-operated suction devices which are built into the prescription. A clever diaphragm principle, triggered by bite pressure on patients' gums, creates a 'sucking' vacuum between the soft-tissue mouth lining and the prosthetic.

Steven, whose clinics attracts patients from as far as Spain, the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Anglesey, says: "In recent times we have seen, what I can describe only as strident clinical steps forward, with implant-retained over-dentures, 'teeth-in-a-day' implant procedures and suction solution dentures, all coming into main-stream dentistry.

"We also have clever injection moulding technology which allows excellent fitting outcomes and our clinical solutions have never been so appealing.

"Implant dentistry as a resolve for stabilisation issues is not suitable for everyone, neither is it all patients' first preference. The Ultra Suction prosthetics system offers a possible alternative clinical solution.

The Ultra Suction system is available for both upper and lower dentures.

"The beauty of this affordable technology is that it can deliver for the right patient excellent denture retainer qualities without the invasive clinical procedures required for implant work."

Lower dentures can often be troublesome when stability is compromised by shrinking gums and bone erosion – all part of the natural ageing process. Ill-fitting dentures create painful friction problems on gums and not least, can be a regular source of embarrassment.

Reduction

Steven adds: "The device can be mounted on upper or lower teeth and because of its efficiency allows us to consider a reduction in the size of the acrylic 'plate' which can improve speech and taste.

"We have always endeavoured to be on the very cusp of clinical development and this is another 'tool 'in our commitment to always try to deliver outcomes greater than patient expectations."

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Denture Clinic

Cigarettes are seized in raid by customs

MORE than a million suspected illicit cigarettes were seized across Sandwell and Birmingham in an operation aimed at disrupting the sale and supply of illegal tobacco.

Shops and self-storage units were visited by HM Revenue and Customs in Wednesbury, Smethwick and Birmingham, with seizures of stock from 11 of 22 shops.

The haul totalled around £260,000 in unpaid duty and VAT.

More than 297,000 cigarettes alone were found at a storage facility in Wednesbury.

Closing

Cash totalling £12,000 and 23 kilos of tobacco were also found. No arrests have yet been made but investigators say the net is closing in on suspects.

HMRC officers were supported by Birmingham City Council's Trading Standards team and Border Force.

Colin Booker, assistant director of criminal investigation at HMRC, said: "The sale of illegal tobacco and cigarettes will not be tolerated by us or our partner agencies, and our activity last week has sent out a clear message to those who

By Charlie Benton

indulge in this type of criminality.

"Disrupting criminal trade is at the heart of our strategy to clampdown on the illicit tobacco market.

"We encourage anyone with information about the illegal sale of tobacco or alcohol to contact the Customs Hotline on 0800 59 5000."

Investigations into the seizures are continuing.

Councillor Barbara Dring, chair of Birmingham City Council's licensing and public protection committee, said: "Detection dogs can find tobacco and cigarettes even if hidden in the most unlikely places, so offenders who choose to deal in these illegal products need to know they will face the consequences of selling them."

Church windows put back in place

Restorer Tim Clevely next to one of the stained glass windows at St James' Church, Hill Top, West Bromwich

ORNATE stained glass windows depicting passages from the Bible have been reinstalled at a church nearly 30 years after being removed.

The colourful panels have been given pride of place at St James' Church, in Hill Top, West Bromwich, following the completion of a near £5,000 restoration project. They were taken out and put in storage when a previous church building was demolished in 1988.

A dedication ceremony has now been held for the two windows, which date back to 1862, at a service led by Bishop of Lichfield the Rt Rev Jonathan Gledhill.

Churchgoers helped to raise funds for a new church to be built and it became operational in December 1994. The windows remained in storage within wooden crates at the church hall until last year.

Expert Tim Clevely was brought in last April to see if restoration was possible and then to start work on restoring the colourful glass to its former glory.

The project took months to complete at a cost of more than £4,900.

Twins meet again Down Under with big reunion

IT was a big reunion Down Under for Black Country twin brothers – with one living on the other side of the world.

Big smiles greeted Brendan Oakley as he stepped off the plane in Australia to be reunited with his twin brother Richard.

The pair, who hailed from Dudley and Tividale, had only seen each once since 2006 ahead of the emotional meeting.

Brendan was one of the winners of The Big Aussie Reunion competition by Tourism and Events Queensland and Flight Centre UK. After sifting through thousands of entries the team decided on a final 40 of which Brendan was one of those lucky enough to get to jet across the world.

He said his twin brother's move to Australia was 'a big kick in the koalas' and life has never been the same since.

The Big Aussie Reunion, with twins Richard and Brendan Oakley, aged 48

Celebrating

In all 80 friends and family were flown into Queensland's Gold Coast so they could enjoy a week-long holiday with their loved ones – including celebrating Australia Day in style.

The brothers, aged 48, had been apart since Richard moved to Australia in October 2006. He moved abroad with his family just after their 40th Birthday party at the Queen Mary Ballroom, at Dudley Zoo and Castle.

After only briefly being able top catch up at Christmas 2012 the pair had not seen each other until this month's reunion.

"As good as telecommunications are nowadays there is simply nothing like being able to sit down and talk with my best buddy and soulmate," Richard said.

Richard lived with his wife Nicola and daughters Jenny, now 18, and Sarah, 16, in Tividale with the girls attending Tividale Hall Primary School, before the move down under. They moved after travelling out to Australia on his honeymoon to visit their older sister Kerry and really enjoyed it.

After going back for a couple of more visits over the years and the family decided to give it a go and take the plunge. He said they really like the lifestyle and the 'clear opportunities available' and now lives west of Brisbane, in Queensland.

Richard works for Logan City Council, based between Brisbane and the Gold Coast, as waste operations programme leader. Back in the Black Country, Brendan works for Wolverhampton Construction Company AM Griffiths & Son Ltd as a project manager .

He is married to Jayne and has two children, Elizabeth, 17, and 15-year-old Christopher, and they live in Sledmore Road, Dudley. Brendan added: "It was so nice to see each other and family in the flesh, catch up over a few beers and put the worlds to rights with some banter about the Wolves and Baggies."

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Women seeking men

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NICKY lonely single mum with GSOH, honest and very loving seeking trustworthy, cuddly, tactile male who can make all my dreams come true. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406523**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel No: 0905 002 1883 Box No: 413399**

SARA 32 very attractive single mum, OHAC, professional, looking for similar outgoing single dad 35-55yrs for companionship, hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406511**

ADVENTUROUS sexy lady, 38yrs, married but seeks no strings fun with discreet man, any age. I'm tall, slim and dominant. Aca. **Tel No: 0905 002 1937 Box No: 415301**

ATTRACTIVE female, young 49, 5ft 7ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, genuine, loyal, easygoing, GSOH, seeks tall, handsome male, 40-50 for fun times, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406135**

ANNE, mid 40's, cheerful busty cuvy affectionate real woman! Seeks gent, any age or looks for nights at mine. **Tel No: 0905 002 1953 Box No: 410291**

SINGLE cuddly female, 5ft 6ins, green eyes, seeks male, 40-50 for fun and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406015**

DISCREET lady, 42yrs wants to make you happy, come to me and let me do that for you. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 409901**

WIDOW young hearted 70's, N/S, likes reading, concerts, gardening, meals out, WLTM younger gentleman with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404177**

ALISON, 27 busty, shapely lady seeks fun only with broad minded man. Aca. **Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box 416073**

MARIA 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes nights in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 329319**

JANET, 36yrs Scottish lady, too shy to go out but loves to chat from home. Will answer all texts. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4627442**

NAT easygoing pretty, honest 24yrs, enjoys cosy nights in, romantic walks, holidaying, keeping fit, WLTM fun, loving, energetic male, looks/age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406117**

MELANIE, sophisticated solvent brunette wltm working man of any age, im 32yrs. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4627443**

SUSAN 34 attractive looking to find that special connection with a nice guy who would enjoy spending good times with me and share new interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406109**

LINDY, new to area, hoping to meet kind many of any age, looks unimportant. Im 43yrs blonde and petite. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4627444**

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818**

PAMELA, married to boring man! Text only for fun phone frolics. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4624149**

SINGLE female, 43, seeks kind, considerate male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406449**

JULIA, seeks fifty shades of grey! You should be strong minded and seeking fun. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4627445**

PAULINE 36 intelligent easygoing female with GSOH looking for nice guy who wants to get know and connect with me, enjoys meals in/out, music and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406373**

SUSIE bubbly blonde looking for fun. Age/looks unimportant but must have a sense of adventure. Can travel and accommodate. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4624145**

DONNA 42yrs young separated female who is ready to start dating again, bubbly, attractive, blonde and raring to get going, come on don't keep me waiting! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406341**

PHILLIPA 22yrs just left boarding school, hoping to meet experienced working class man for real life fun. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4624147**

28YR old brunette, seeks fun loving, adventurous male for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 380918**

SLIM brunette 36yrs hoping to meet older gent for friendship, fun, maybe more. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4624146**

JANET looking for handsome prince to spoil me in return for lots of good fun and well deserved uncomplicated attention. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405823**

PAMMY 42yrs, recently divorced and fancies becoming a "cougar". **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4624148**

NEW to dating and a little nervous, Susan very attractive 30yr old curvy single mum, looking for fun times with similar outgoing male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405809**

SARAH 24, brunette, brown eyes, attractive, slim, smart, seeks male with GSOH, 30's in Kidderminster area for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406139**

YOUNG looking, pretty female, 40, brunette, slim, no ties, N/S, seeks attractive, refined male for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 313115**

JANICE 40, 5ft 5ins, medium build, brown eyes, likes music, cooking, cosy nights in/out, seeks similar male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397407**

Men seeking women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

ARE you a black princess? 48yr old sporty white male, 5ft 11ins, likes holidays, cinema, meals out, would like to take you out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406551**

MATTHEW, 43 widower, business manager, solvent, reasonable looks but lonely. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4624150**

MALE seeking female, 40-55, discretion assured, status unimportant for daytime meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406433**

SHARP dressed man, mature, fun, seeks smart, size 10 lady, any age for friendship and relationship. Hereford. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405323**

58YR old male, likes nights in/out, looking for N/S female, 40-60 for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405975**

JOSEPH 40 tall, GSOH, seeks female, 26-48 for fun and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394103**

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388372**

38YR old farm worker, medium build, seeks female of similar age for nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406331**

ATTRACTIVE tall, professional male, GSOH, easy going, likes sport, socialising, seeks female for fun and live life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406317**

CHRIS 45, genuine, honest, caring, N/S, likes cinema, theatre, socialising, seeks genuine, N/S female, 39-45, single mum welcome for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406295**

46YR old stocky male, no ties, shaved head, likes walks, meals out, motor bikes, seeking female for relationship, are you the one? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406291**

SLIM attractive man 51, GSOH, WLTM lady 45-55 for evenings out and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406259**

MAURICE 50's, seeking N/S female for nights out, friendship and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400425**

MALE 50, fit, friendly, down to earth, broadminded, seeks bored female for discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 372407**

STRICTLY come dancing. Male 52, trendy, honest, caring, down to earth, fun loving, seeks petite lady, 45-54. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397163**

GENUINE 56yr old male, divorced, OHAC, looking for nice lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405551**

JIMMY 53 good looking, fit, genuine, honest, very loving and looking for the same in a woman. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397157**

ROUGH diamond 45 looking for older lady, the older the better, for fun times, can accommodate, let me entertain you. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404437**

GEOFF 60's, tall, seeking nice lady for fun, friendship, relationship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406077**

PAUL 46, brown/blond hair, 6ft, slim, single dad, genuine, down to earth, fun loving, kind, caring, likes most things seeking female for love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406007**

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Minister praises firm during visit to factory

"A FANTASTIC business doing really well' – that's how a cabinet minister summed up a bespoke Smethwick engineering firm.

A&M EDM precision engineering specialists, has recently expanded thanks to a government grant of more than £450,000.

International Development Secretary Justine Greening paid a visit to the firm, based on Park Rose Industrial Estate.

The grant from the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership's Regional Growth Fund meant the firm was able to employ 14 new workers and build a new factory unit.

Ms Greening was given a tour of the factory on Thursday and praised the firm as well as the work of the Black Country LEP.

Ninder Johal chats with the minister

Boss Mark Winfield at a spark

Justine Greening at A&M EDM

The politician talks to a member of staff

Projects

Ms Greening said: "The fund is a fantastic initiative because what it does is create a pot of money that doesn't get decided on by central government but by our Local Enterprise Partnership, run by business and the local authority and public sector, who really know the area and come up with the proposals.

"The Black Country has so far received £172 million invested into companies, projects and schemes that will help this part of the country to grow. These funds are vital as it allows companies like A&M to invest in new machinery and open a new factory, as well as take on new employees. They can, in the future, expand further. It is a fantastic business that it doing really well, it is very niche and specialised, so it is high skill. I was told that people who work here are trained for 10 years to get up to the level required to do the work for the clients that they have. The fund is fantastic for the Black Country and Birmingham."

Ms Greening was also introduced to the company's most recent addition, a £250,000 die sinker machine, which was in the middle of a 26-hour process to refurbish engine parts for a 1930's train. The company first opened in 2002 with just two employees and now has over 50.

Managing director Mark Wingfield, who is originally from Quinton, said: "We do lots of precision and development work on new projects, it is a bespoke service, we make other people's dreams into reality.

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Go potty for bands' snooker hall gig

Miss Halliwell features Miles Perhower, Samuel Rodgers, Bernice Cameron, Sarah Fleming and Ross Hadlington

A NIGHT of live music will have a historic Black Country venue rocking next weekend.

Three bands will grace the Bearwood's well-known Sandwell Snooker Centre for the 'Valentines Day Break-Up' show on February 14.

Bearwood band Miss Halliwell will be joined by The Crooked Hooks and the The Nature Centre. The show starts at 7.30pm. Entry on the door is £4. The snooker centre was formerly known as The Windsor and operated mainly as a full-time cinema until 1946, when it became a variety theatre.

In 1957 it was a repertory theatre but closed in 1960, to reopen three years later as a skating rink. It is now a snooker hall.

Festival off for park work

A FESTIVAL that regularly attracts more than 20,000 people has been called off due to restoration work at the site.

The annual May Day Festival, held at Lightwoods Park in Bearwood over the May Bank Holiday weekend has been postponed for his year because of work in the park and to Grade II-listed Lightwoods House.

Work, which started last weekend, includes restoring drinking fountains and a 19th century bandstand.

Steve Eling, Sandwell Council deputy leader, said there was no way the park could accommodate that number of spectators once the £5.2 million project was under way, though he hoped the festival could resume in 2016.

He said: "We are not doing it this year because the park will be a bit like a building site. A fair part of the park will not be available so we could not cope if the same number of people turned up as has been the case in previous years.

"We will have something on during the summer, but we won't be able to stage the May Day event."

The festival regularly features musical performances and nostalgia acts. There have also been skateboard and BMX demonstrations and a Sandwell's Strongest Man competition as well as a real ale tent and stalls.

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Good fry-day for chippy with award

A FISH and chip restaurant has found the recipe for success after receiving a prestigious award.

The Starfish restaurant in Tividale has scooped the Fish and Chip Quality Award from the National Federation of Fish Friers (NFFF), the trade body representing the UK's fish and chip shops and manager Owner Michael Artemis said: "It is a great honour to be awarded this prestigious award."

The award recognises restaurants that provide good quality products and high standards of hygiene, as well as friers that show a high level of competence. It is a happy double for The Starfish, which also received the top '5' rating under Sandwell Council's Food Hygiene Rating Scheme.

Mr Artemis added: "Hopefully it will generate a bit of good publicity for the business and bring a bit more footfall through the doors to try the good quality fish and chips."

The local authority award means that Starfish has 'very good' hygiene standards.

Michael Pili, from the Midland Seafish Industry, and Mike Artemis, owner of Starfish chip shop

Robbery victims had chilli rubbed in eyes

TWO brothers from Smethwick have been jailed for a total of 13 years for rubbing chilli powder into the eyes of women before snatching their mobile phones.

Kashif Ashraf, aged 34, and Khalid Ashraf, 28, laughed at one of their victims as they fled during what a judge called a campaign of terror.

Three women were injured in the robberies, which happened in and around Birmingham city centre. The pair, both of Portland Road, were jailed last Thursday after they were found guilty of four street robberies, at Birmingham Crown Court .

Kashif was given six years and Khalid, seven years. The first robbery took place on June 21 last year in Islington Row Middleway at 6.45pm.

A 23-year-old woman was followed as she walked from Fiveways Island and into an underpass where the duo lay in wait. The woman's phone was grabbed and as she screamed for help they knocked her glasses off and rubbed chilli powder into her eyes leaving her temporarily blinded and in a great deal of pain. Nine days later at 12.40pm on June 30, they robbed an 18-year-old woman again seen on her phone outside the Marriot Hotel at Fiveways Island.

Report by David Banner

One of the brothers grabbed the phone while the other rubbed chilli powder in her eyes.

Their third robbery was later the same day at 5.30pm where a 30-year-old woman sat on seating near to Morrison's Supermarket on the Hagley Road. When the woman refused to let go of her phone, they scratched her hand to release her grip.

The pair were eventually caught minutes after their last robbery on July 6 in Upper Dean Street.

They snatched the phone from a 39-year-old woman; as they ran off one of the brothers turned round and laughed at her. A passing member of the public, who had seen the robbery, chased the pair and also managed to flag down a passing police car who were then able to arrest the pair and recover the phone. Dc Jamie Simon said: "On each occasion, the brothers targeted women who were on their own. They saw them using their phones and then lay in wait to attack them."

At the time of the four robberies, Kashif Ashraf was already on bail in connection with an attempted robbery on a lone woman – he was found guilty of that offence in September last year.

During a preliminary hearing, Kashif pleaded guilty to the July 6 robbery but maintained his innocence to the other three throughout the trial.

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Key to the door – many tenants are entitled

Answering three questions can see tenants buying their home

Tenants given the right to buy

Council and housing association tenants – are you up to date with Right to Buy?

Right to Buy is the scheme that helps eligible council and housing association tenants buy their home by offering a discount on the purchase price.

Since the scheme was refreshed in April 2012 the discounts have increased. Currently, eligible tenants can get up to 70 per cent off the cost of their house or flat up to a maximum cash discount of £77,000 in England, and £102,700 if you live in London. Each year these discounts will increase by the rate of inflation.

Since 2012 nearly 30,000 people in England have become homeowners through the Right to Buy scheme. Could this be the right time for you – or somebody you know – to join them?

Home ownership is not the right choice for everyone and potential owners need to be sure they can afford it. But homeownership also brings many benefits such as freedom to make changes, a sense of pride and an investment for the future.

Receipts from additional Right to Buy sales go into building affordable housing.

Who qualifies for the Right to Buy?

Tenants are likely to be eligible to buy their current home if they can answer 'yes' to these questions:

- Are you currently a council tenant, or were you living in your home when the council transferred it to another landlord (housing association)?
- Have you been a council or housing association tenant for five years or more?
- Can you confirm that you do not live in sheltered housing or other housing designed for elderly or disabled people?

Visit www.communities.gov.uk/the righttobuy; call 0300 123 0913 or email: enquiry@righttobuyagent.org.uk

In addition, tenants need to be free from legal problems with debt or outstanding possession orders, and their home isn't due to be demolished.

If you don't qualify at the moment, keep an eye on news about Right to Buy as the Government is hoping to make further changes to eligibility later this year.

What to do next

If you want to find out more about buying your home and whether you are eligible for a discount through Right to Buy, have a look at our website.

There is an easy-to-use calculator to help you work out if you can afford to buy and lots of practical tips about the buying process.

If you decide to go ahead you will need to fill in the application form and take the process forward with your landlord.

Support from start to finish

The Government's Right to Buy Agent service offers free and impartial advice on Right to Buy.

If you decide that home ownership is the right choice for you, the advisers will help you throughout the process from applying to completing.

Advisers can provide information on finding a mortgage, appointing a solicitor and arranging a survey.

Service

If you are midway through buying and have a problem, get in touch with the Agent service and they can advise you.

The advisers are available from Monday to Friday, 8am until 6pm. You can phone them on 0300 123 0913.

For more information:

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Gold medal is icing on the fish cake

Speciality cake artist Glen Beardsmore, of Quinton who won first place at the Hospitality Show at the NEC

IT'S a fish cake, Jim, but not as we know it. Believe it or not, this lifelike brown trout is made entirely of vanilla sponge and icing.

The incredible creation is the handiwork of former HGVdriver-turned-baker, Glen Beardsmore, who has just won gold in the sculpted novelty cake category at the prestigious Cake International.

"Some people were convinced it was a real fish, so that has to be a good sign," said Glen, aged 53, of White Road, Quinton.

"I originally designed it to be a brown trout but it ended up looking more like a salmon. I am a keen fisherman and have caught plenty of brown trout over the years so it made sense to do it. There has been a real positive reaction to the cake. After it was displayed at the competition and I made it back home I had to do some repairs because people couldn't keep their hands off it. I had to repair the nose and some of the fins. There were fingermarks all over it."

Mr Beardsmore lost his job two years ago and decided to start his own business, Nice and Iced Cake Company. Having won a gold and a bronze in two previous competitions, his fishy cake won gold at the show on January 21. He said: "I first got my HGV licence while I was in the TA in the 90s. I drove for 14 years and then two years ago I was made redundant.

"I thought about getting another job but then I found myself asking whether I really wanted to. I had always been artistic and had made a few cakes for family and friends. The response I got was amazing and a friend convinced me to make it more than a hobby."

Mr Beardsmore said although he was nervous about starting his own business, he soon became more confident after discovering Cake International. "I tried out in 2013 with a cake I had made with a war theme. It was a pair of military boots and a poppy and it won gold," he said. "I was so amazed, and from then on I became much more confident."

Since then, Mr Beardsmore said he has made cakes ranging from sports cars to a replica of Walsall FC's Banks's Stadium, all from his home-based kitchen.

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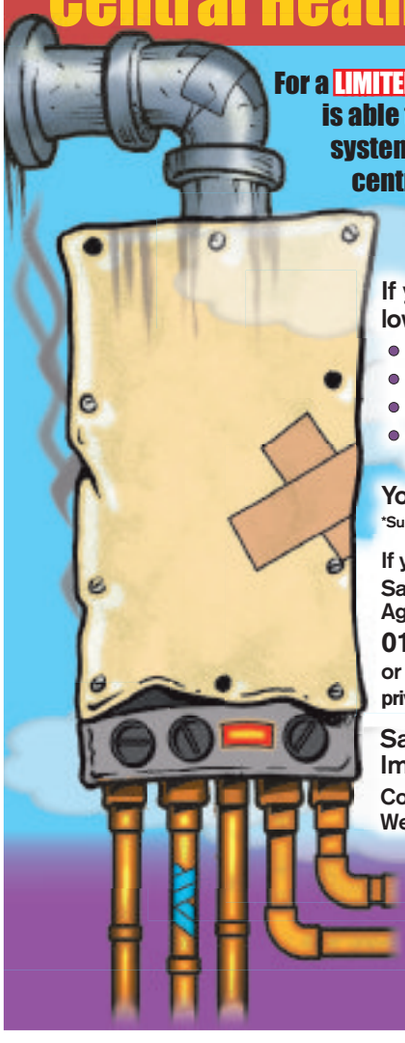

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Roads are targeted in racing ban

FOUR routes will be targeted in a new clampdown against boy racers in Sandwell including a busy road in Wednesbury.

Councillors have linked with the other Black Country boroughs to succeed in gaining orders banning illegal car cruising and meetings.

Police will be out enforcing the ban in four areas – Hallens Drive and Patent Drive off the A41 and Axletree Way, in Wednesbury, the Toys R Us car park, in Oldbury, and along Kelvin Way, in West Bromwich, near The Hawthorns.

Sandwell Council leader, Councillor Darren Cooper, says the ban will help ease problems for other motorists and residents caught up in the problems. "It is hoped that this Black Country-wide order will act as a deterrent and prevent further cruising."

Celebration of business

BLACK Country Asian businesses are being invited to enter the first Signature Awards.

Wednesbury-based Nachural Events is organising the awards with winners to be announced at a black-tie dinner at Warwickshire Cricket Club's Edgbaston ground on March 20.

The deadline for nominations is February 6. For further information please contact Ninder Johal on 07774116545 or visit www.thesignatureawards.co.uk

FOCUS ON WEDNESBURY

Food cafe for vulnerable people opened by Mayor

A NEW food kitchen providing 'bostin' food and company for the most vulnerable people in the community has been officially opened by the Mayor of Sandwell.

The Bostin Food Cafe, open every Monday and Friday from 5.30-7.30pm at Wednesbury Town Hall, was opened on Monday by Councillor Derek Rowley.

by Charlie Benton

The cafe is backed by community group Wednesbury Celebrates, the Reaching Out church group and Sandwell Council.

Councillor Olwen Jones, who is one of the organisers of the cafe, said: "The opening went very well. The plans have not been long in the pipeline, we had the idea before Christmas but decided to put the date back to this month.

"We put the date back so we could get everything sorted and in order and be prepared with kitchen staff and equipment. We had so many volunteers who came out to help. There were many people who do a lot of work at the town hall already who did what they could."

Councillor Jones said there were several hungry bellies on the night.

"There were so many grateful faces there," she said. "The food really was fantastic, too, we are not allowed to serve meat because of safety regulations but the vegetable soup and vegetable con carne tasted absolutely great."

Councillor Jones said the food, which is Fairtrade and provided for £12 a day, is prepared off-site by a professional chef and then brought to the hall for the kitchen.

A David Essex lookalike was also on hand to officially open the kitchen. "We originally wanted Rod Stewart but he was already booked," Councillor Jones said.

"So the David Essex lookalike came along and sang some songs. It was a very good night."

A meal costs just 20p but Councillor Jones said it will be provided for free to the desperate. This is not just for homeless people," she said. "Everybody is welcome to come along for good food and conversation."

The mayor of Sandwell Councillor Derek Rowley opens the new 'Bostin Cafe' at Wednesbury Town Hall

Service is under fire over trams

METRO passengers have taken to Twitter again to voice their anger about 'overcrowded' trams. It is the second time in two weeks that there have been complaints.

Midland Metro chiefs have again denied that trams are overcrowded, saying the service would never run at full capacity.

Unhappy passenger Pat Archer tweeted a picture showing a full carriage and people standing up after the 8.11am service left Wednesbury Parkway. She complained to Midland Metro, saying: "@MidlandMetro is this what u call running under capacity?"

But Jack Kelly, spokesperson for National Express which runs the service, said bosses would not allow overcrowding for health and safety reasons and said all services were monitored to ensure they were not full to capacity.

Gym gear is given boost

GYM gear has been upgraded and swimming lessons extended at a sports centre near Wednesbury.

A range of treadmills, bikes and cross trainers are now available at Mint Condition fitness suite at Darlaston Swimming Pool.

Adult swimming lessons have also been extended with extra sessions on Fridays from 8.30 to 9.30pm.

Leisure provision across Walsall is being revamped with the construction of two new centres.

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Charity concert aims to be a Shaw-fire hit for coffers

A PENSIONER is striking up the band for the first time in 15 years to raise awareness of a rare illness being fought by his son.

Ivor Shaw and his wife Wendy were shocked by news that son Darren had been diagnosed with lymphoma, a type of cancer, last year.

The 42-year-old had been having breathing difficulties and went to the doctor who then discovered a tumour in his nostril. Just 20 people are year are diagnosed with his type of lymphoma.

Darren, from Stourport, a father to four-year-old Rosie, is currently undergoing a rigorous chemotherapy programme. After learning about the condition, Ivor, aged 72, of Ferndale Road, Oldbury, decided he wanted to do something to help other sufferers. He said: "When one of your children has got something like this, you feel helpless so I wanted to do something charitable. I wanted to help a group that helps other people with the condition."

For around 30 years the retired carpet fitter was a member of a country music band called Nashville Dreamer, which would tour across the country. Fifteen years after they last got on stage he felt it was time he brought them back together.

They will play at the Brandhall Labour Club in Oldbury on February 28. Mr Shaw said: "We stopped playing in 2000. There had been a few line-up changes and the time had come to call it a day."

Tickets for event can be bought by calling Mr Shaw on 07981 957972.

From left, Ivor Shaw, Don Fellows, Michael Fellows, Robbie Fellows and Lucy Shaw

Plant set to play concert in forest

ROCK legend Robert Plant is the third and final act to be announced to appear at a series of live outdoor concerts on Cannock Chase this summer.

The former Led Zeppelin frontman has signed up for the Forest Live gigs.

He will take to the stage with his new band The Sensational Space Shifters on July 11.

The other two acts performing at the beauty spot on the other two days are Paloma Faith and Tom Odell.

Plant's music career spans almost 50 years.

He sold hundreds of millions of records with Led Zeppelin.

The 66-year-old then embarked on a solo career and released his 10th solo album last year.

Wolves supporter Plant and his band are also performing at Westonbirt Arboretum, near Tetbury, Gloucestershire.

Tickets go on sale this Friday at 9am.

Around 5,000 tickets will be made available for each of the three gigs on the Chase.

Drunk pals in attacks after prank backfires

THUGS left a passenger in tears as they smashed a window in a bus and beat up the driver during a drink-fuelled rampage, a judge heard.

Two of the trio then punched and kicked a 14-year-old schoolboy who bravely stepped in to stop the attack, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Report by John Scott

Violence flared after Richard Russell opened the engine cover and cut power to the vehicle for a 'prank' while it waited at a stop at Darlaston Bus Station, the court was told. The 22-year-old struck after spending the afternoon drinking 'three of four crates' of lager with Daniel Homer and Aaron Stokes, aged 25 and 26 respectively, it was said.

Miss Joanne Barker, prosecuting, explained: "The driver went to the rear of the bus to restart the engine and Russell started throwing punches at him and running at him high kicking into the air at head height.

"Then Homer and Stokes joined in."

Driver David Langston got onto the bus to escape the trio but was followed by Russell and Stokes who continued the attack until a 14-year-old passenger ordered them to stop, revealed Miss Barker.

The duo then turned on the teenager, hurling racial abuse along with punches at the schoolboy who was knocked to the floor by a blow over the head with a bottle, continued the prosecutor.

Stokes stamped on the head of the young victim – who was being held down by Russell – before all three thugs fled as police arrived at the scene on October 9, the court heard. They were arrested soon afterwards.

The teenager was taken to hospital but fortunately only suffered bad bruising. The boy, awarded a Judge's Commendation, later told police: "A little lad on the bus was sobbing throughout the incident because he was so scared and upset by what he had seen."

The driver also escaped serious injury.

Mr Patrick Currie, defending, said: "This started as a prank but got out of hand. Russell cut the engine of the bus, a dispute arose and the other two joined in."

Stokes from Wolverhampton Road, Wednesbury, who had 19 previous convictions involving 43 offences, was jailed for 22 months.

Russell of Wellington Road, Bilston received a 20-month prison term and Homer from Wood Green Road, Wednesbury and of previous good character was given a 12-month sentence suspended under supervision for two years with 200 hours unpaid work, a three month night time curfew and £235 costs and compensation.

All three pleaded guilty to affray and criminal damage.

Tree of light cash to be handed over

THOUSANDS of pounds raised by residents in a Black Country town will be handed over to good causes during a night of celebration.

The Tree of Light, a Christmas tradition in Tipton for more than 20 years, has raised more money than ever before, bringing in more than £6,000.

Each year, people are invited to sponsor the bulbs on the tree, outside St Paul and St Martin's Church in Owen Street, in memory of a loved one. Their names are then displayed on a board outside the church before the big switch-on. Representatives of local charities and hospitals have been invited to accept donations at a special ceremony to be held at the church on February 17.

Singer and comedian Kenny Craig will also be performing.

Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital and the Birmingham Children's Hospital are among beneficiaries.

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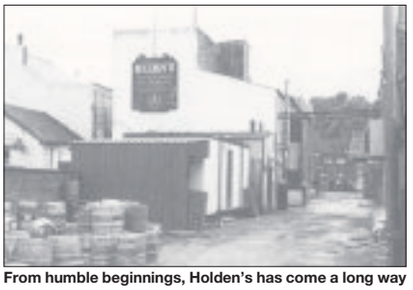
Crates of beer picked up on the forklift at Holden's brewery in 1967



From humble beginnings, Holden's has come a long way

Denis Briscoe stacking the beer ready for delivery to pubs in 1967

Andy Stokoe cleans kegs at Holden's Brewery

The offices above the bottle shop at Holden's Brewery

Brewery hails 100 years with ale trail

A BREWERY has thrown down the gauntlet to real ale lovers as it launches its centenary celebrations.

MEMORY LANE

By Richard Guttridge

Holden's Brewery will challenge punters to get a round in at each of its pubs across the Black Country.

The real ale trail will begin in the spring as the Woodsetton-based brewery kicks-off a range of events to mark its 100th anniversary.

Those who complete the tour of the firm's 20 tenanted pubs will then be able to swap their completed card for Holden's centenary memorabilia. The family-run brewery will also host tours, starting from February.

The arrival of the brewery's centenary year comes as an expansion of the site is nearing completion.

A new tank room will be completed during 2015, increasing capacity at the Sedgley Road West site by 50 per cent, which bosses said had been possible thanks to a boom in the ale trade. One of the stops on the Holden's tour will be the Rose and Crown in Brierley Hill and landlord Mark Pritchard believes the idea will drum up interest in the area.

He said: "It's a popular brewery around here. This pub is still a busy little pub and I do think it will make a difference.

"Round here it is a real ale area, it's so popular, especially when they bring out their own monthly ones.

"They tend to go down really well. I think the tour is a really good idea."

Francis Britton, who runs Holdens pub The Wheatsheaf, in Carter's Green, West Bromwich, believes the tour could come as a major boost.

She said: "Anything that gets more people in is a good idea. Hopefully this can help. All pubs need more customers at the moment and anything that increases the likelihood of people coming in is good.

"Ale is a good seller, the pub is known for having real ale. Locally it does well."

Despite the bleak outlook for the industry in recent years which has seen pubs continue to disappear from Black Country streets, Holden's has been able to buck the trend and invest in the future.

When the expansion is complete, ale production will increase from 50,000 pints a week to 75,000.

Popularity

The extension has been built at the rear of the site in George Street and will see extra fermentation tanks installed. A new bottle store was also completed in 2012.

When the plans were revealed, managing director Jonathan Holden said: "There has been a resurgence in the popularity of ales in recent time and this has been a massive benefit to us.

"This expansion is necessary for us to build on the business."

Jonathan Holden in the new fermentation plant

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SUCCESSFUL BOWJANGLES MOVES TO BIGGER PREMISES

Bowjangles (Midlands) have recently moved to bigger premises, due to a demand from their loyal customers who want value for money.

Aaron Sheldon, Manager of Bowjangles, said: "It was sad to see customers' faces when they sold jewellery to us that the High Street Jewellers were actually charging them over 5 times more than it was actually worth. So, we have moved to a bigger shop, so we can sell scrap gold, diamond rings and watches direct to the customer". Aaron added: "From the outset we wanted a good name in 'Our Community', hence why we have customers who regularly use our services and have done since Bowjangles first traded in 2005.

We found the same circumstances when it came to foreign exchange, so started trading in currency 3 years ago, with the best rates and never charging commission and we thank our customers for the sucess we are experiencing in that."

Aaron also stated: "The Watch Market is very strong at the moment, especially for males, they've become like an engagement ring to men. We deal with a lot of watch traders and if it's a nice luxury watch you are after then look no further than ourselves.

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TWO SPORTS MEN AT THE LOUNGE BAR AND MAJOR KHEELA CELEBRATES HIS 65TH BIRTHDAY

Last weekend Mr Major Singh Kheela licensee and landlord of Great Bridge Pub, The Lounge Bar celebrated his 65th birthday party in style. Major received many gifts from family and friends who paid respect and all celebrated in his pub. A free bar and complimentary buffet was offered to all locals who have been drinking in Major's pub for many years and who have supported him in running his local business for over 20 years. There was a great a family friendly atmosphere with contemporary Asian food and music theme and the pub was to its full capacity packed with over 300 people.

Two great sportsmen alongside each other 'Major and Super Bob Taylor.' Known as ' THE POWER' Major started taking an interest in

Former West Bromwich Albion Player "Super" Bob Taylor with landlord and former weightlifting champion Major Kheela

weightlifting in the 1980's and has competed in various championships throughout the West Midlands culminating in his 'personal best' in 1986 lifting 186kg in the clean and jerk.

'It's a bit like coming to the pub

with my mates' that's how Baggies legend described a night with fans in the Black Country Pub. Super Bob made a special appearance at The Lounge Bar in Tipton where he spoke about his career highlights. More than 100 football fans packed into The Lounge Bar on Saturday night to hear stories and anecdotes

from the former centre forward affectionately known as Super Bob. "I like doing pub appearances "he said "it's a bit of a chinwag with the local fans."

"At a venue like this you get a mixture of Baggies fans and Wolves fans" he said. "The Wolves fans will ask questions to try and wind me up but I give it back to them as good as I get." Taylor also signed books and shirts on the evening for his fans, pub landlord Major said that the evening had gone extremely well, it was a chance to bring a local sporting legend to his venue and plans to organise many similar events.

Care service helps people to remain in their own homes

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

TIPTON Home Care Limited is a private company employing 135 local people.

The business provides a range of personal care and support that allows many people to remain in their own homes.

People are most at ease living in the comfort of their own homes and Tipton Home Care Limited provides a solution for those unable to maintain all the activities of daily living unaided.

Care services are designed and tailor made to suit individual needs. This enables service users to retain dignity and self respect through just a little bit of extra help.

The business has been approved and contracted by Sandwell Council as a provider of care services for Tipton, West Bromwich, Wednesbury, North Dudley, Yew Tree Walsall, Tividale and Great Barr. Hours of care run from 6am to 10pm and anywhere between these two times.

Care co-ordinator Lesley Higgs makes an appointment for one of the company's many service users

The business employs around 135 people across its geographical area, helping communities to thrive

Best care

The mission statement for Tipton Home Care is: 'To provide the best care and support in order that people may remain in their own homes as independently as possible'.

"We offer assistance with a high standard of domiciliary care for people in need to enable them to remain living in their own homes," says managing director Stuart Higgins.

"Tailor made services meet specific needs and we will do our very best to ensure personal satisfaction.

"Our staff are chosen for their qualities and skills in the job they do and receive update training to ensure they are always competent."

Formed in 1995, Tipton Home Care Limited is a Quality Assured Company to ISO9002 Standards. The company supports the rights of disabled people in the gaining and retaining employment and was awarded the Investors in People award in November 2005.

As a member of the United Kingdom Home Care Association (UKHCA) Tipton Home Care Limited adheres to the UKHCA Code of Conduct. Operating in Tipton, West Bromwich, Wednesbury, North Dudley, Yew Tree, Walsall, Tividale and Great Barr, initial referrals are followed by a visit to carry out technical assessment of need.

As a result of these visits, an individual working care plan will be formulated with the service user and/or representative and any other relevant professional involved. This helps to identify how health and welfare needs will be met.

Risk assessments

"As part of an assessment, we will carry out a number of risk assessments to ensure the safety of both you and your carer are taken in to account," adds Stuart.

"Each working care plan will be reviewed every six months or as necessary in order to continue to meet specific identified needs.

"Every endeavour will be made to assist you, your relatives and your representative to be fully involved in the process."

Care for older people, individuals with mental health, physical disabilities, learning disabilities and people with dementia or alzheimer's is provided by Tipton Home Care. Personal care includes assistance with practical tasks such as washing, shaving (not wet shaving), oral care, dressing, toileting, continence care and feeding.

It provides assistance with medication with the use of a medi-pack, assistance with getting up or going to bed, making or changing a bed, emptying commodes, shopping for services users, paying bills and collecting service user's pensions (giro only).

Should it be required, staff will also help with service users' laundry and can include ironing, preparing meals, vacuum cleaning and light domestic tasks, washing dishes, dusting, cleaning of toilets and bathrooms etc.

"All of the above services are provided by care workers making personal visits at agreed times to meet the needs of the service users and their chosen lifestyle," says Stuart. "Visits can vary in length from 15 minutes to one or more hours.

"One or more visits can be made throughout the day on one day or seven days per week, following an assessment of need that will identify the services required."

BUSINESS PROFILE

Business name: Tipton Home Care
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Stars line-up for classic whodunnit

TV favourites Paul Nicholas and Dalziel and Pascoe star Colin Buchanan feature in a production of Agatha Christie's And Then There Were None at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre this week.

The play opened on Monday and runs until Saturday in a production that celebrates the 10th anniversary of the Agatha Christie Theatre Company. The whodunnit is set on an isolated island where the past catches up with the guests.

It also stars Susan Penhaligon from Bouquet of Barbed Wire and A Fine Romance, Stafford-born ex-Blue Peter presenter Mark Curry, Emmerdale's Verity Rushworth and Frazer Hines, plus Ben Nealon from Soldier Soldier.

Comedy favourites are on the stage

MAUREEN Lipman, fondly remembered as the BT grannie, will join Gimme Gimme Gimme actor James Dreyfus in Lindsay Posner's new production of 1940s American comedy Harvey at Birmingham Rep, before heading to the West End. The production is on in Birmingham until February 21.

The Knights who say Ni are back in Brum with Spamalot, the musical based on Monty Python and the Holy Grail, at the New Alexandra Theatre until Saturday. Squeaky-voiced Joe Pasquale is King Arthur and ex-EastEnder Todd Carty his long-suffering servant Patsy.

Dance fantasy is promising to be a cut above the rest

It's Heart and Soul from Carol

A SHROPSHIRE raised singer known for some of the biggest power ballads of the 1980s, Carol Decker, brings T'Pau to Bilston venue The Robin 2 on Valentine's Day — apt, as one of their hits was Valentine.

China In Your Hands, which topped the singles chart in the UK and American in 1987, was the band's biggest hit after they hit the big time with Heart and Soul from their debut Bridge of Spies album.

Next Saturday's gig has been rescheduled from last October. Tickets cost £17.50 in advance or £19.50 on the door.

Other key gigs — Ricky Wilson will rule the roost when Kaiser Chiefs rock a full Wolverhampton Civic Hall tomorrow (Friday); Hayseed Dixie put a hillbilly twist on classic rock at a sold out Wulfrun Hall on Saturday, the same time Nick Dagger and The Counterfeit Stones spend the night at the Robin 2.

80s ballad queen Carol Decker has a Valentine date with T'Pau at Bilston's Robin 2 venue

NEW Adventures' magical production of Edward Scissorhands, Matthew Bourne's ballet version of the cult fantasy movie created by Tim Burton, is being staged at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday to Saturday.

Dominic North, who was award nominated for his performance in the role in 2009, will be sharing the title role with rising star Liam Mower. One of the original trio of boys who played Billy Elliot on stage, Mower last year returned to the West End as 'Older Billy' for the filmed gala version of the show.

The Russian State Ballet of Siberia perform their version of The Nutcracker (a little late for Christmas, or very early) at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Sunday at 4pm and present an evening performance of Swan lake on Monday.

Valentine

It will be dance with a Strictly popular appeal when Brendan Cole presents A Night To Remember at the Grand on Thursday, February 12.

Fellow Strictly Come Dancing veterans Anton du Beke and Erin Boag present That's Entertainment at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Saturday, February 14. A likely Valentine treat for many, the new production will feature Hollywood classics sung by Strictly vocalist Lance Ellington and danced by the star duo, plus world class guest dancers.

Edward Scissorhands is at Birmingham Hippodrome

The ballroom glamour will feature the 25-piece London Concert Orchestra on stage.

Former Strictly favourites Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace also celebrate the golden age of Hollywood in Dance Til Dawn at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday.

Then Birmingham Royal Ballet launches its season at Birmingham Hippodrome with Moving Stateside, featuring three American ballets, from February 18 and Coppélia from February 24.

Mediaeval music on Night Watch

IF you fancy something seriously traditional, different and definitely medieval then The Night Watch are a real treat.

The duo of Ian Pittaway and Andy Casserley play tunes which are hundreds of years old on impressive reproduction instruments the like of which would have been played in the 13th century.

They will be playing renaissance music and singing in ways which will transport you back in history at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Church Hill, Mill Street, Sutton Coldfield, B72 1TF this Saturday (February 7) at 7.30pm.

Tickets can be bought through www.htsc.org.uk/friends-of-holy-trinity/concerts-and-events/the-night-watch/

Hares to Leveret's new album tour

THREE of English folk's top musicians, Andy Cutting, Sam Sweeney and Rob Harbron, will be performing together as Leveret at the MAC Birmingham on February 12 at 8pm.

The gig is the launch tour for their debut album New Anything. Tickets are £15 or £13 with concessions.

Cutting has just finished a new album with Martin Simpson and Nancy Kerr.

On the same night at 8.30pm, duo Nik Morris and Kris Collins, Elmore Row, will be at Brewood Acoustic Club, Brewood Cricket Club, Four Ashes Road.

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Each school will be given an advertiser by the Express & Star and asked to come up with a ground breaking original ad to feature an 8-page colour supplement, published in-paper on Thursday 2nd April 2015.

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or alternatively register via email at j.watton@expressandstar.co.uk
Closing date for registering is Monday 16th February

Any queries? Phone 01902 319671 or 01902 319134

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Signature.....

CHOICE

Paddy McGuinness

Take Me Out (ITV, 8.05pm)
It seems a long time ago indeed when Paddy McGuinness walked in the shadow of comic sidekick and best friend Peter Kay. Since those days, he's carved a nice little career for himself, married a model and become a father to twins. He's also recently announced he'll be touring again in September, but if you can't wait that long to cash in some of that unique McGuinness humour, he's back on the box tonight with this hilarious dating show. Tonight, he is serving up a treat for those ladies with lights; they will meet lifeguard Liam, barista Jonathon, hairdresser Nick and bagpiper Glenn. Surely love will blossom for some of them? If not, we'll have fun watching it try...

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Italy v Ireland (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. France v Scotland (Kick-off 5.00pm).

6.55 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.15 The Voice UK. Emma Willis and Marvin Humes present the spinning-chair singing contest, in which Tom Jones, Will.i.am, Ricky Wilson and Rita Ora seek out the nation's best vocal talent. As the coaches sit with their backs to the singers, the fun for the viewers is guessing who is going to press their button first, as they silently quiz each other or goad each other on. As they become more keen to complete their teams, will they be less picky in their choices? Tonight's hopefuls include 19-year-old Essex rapper Brooklyn and a familiar face to any fan of 1980s pop – Brother Beyond singer Nathan Moore.

8.35 The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List. Shane Richie hosts the game show in which two contestants pick a selection of dream prizes to make up their personal wish lists, all of which have a connection to their shared history together. They then face categories of questions in an attempt to win their chosen items.

9.25 Casualty. It's inspection day so Connie gives the staff a pep talk – unaware of the problems in store. Two soldiers are injured in an explosion during a training exercise, but Rita can't understand why one of them is lying about the accident. A computer hacker tries to spread a little happiness, although it comes at a price that lands him in the ED – and as the doctors treat the patient's illness, Robyn inadvertently causes a near-disaster by spreading his virus to Holby's computer system. Honey catches Big Mac taking stock from the food bank, and Zoe and Max rekindle their passion.

10.15 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day.

12.00 The Football League Show. **1.20 Film:** Highlander: Endgame. (2000) **2.50** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.55** BBC News.

BBC2

6.20 Film: War and Peace. (1956) **9.40** Fred Dibnah's Age of Steam. (R) **10.10** British Isles: A Natural History. (R) **11.00** Six Nations Rewind. **12.00** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.45** Food & Drink. (R) **1.15** Jack Lemmon: Talking Pictures. **2.00 Film:** Cowboy. (1958) Western, starring Jack Lemmon. **3.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** Horrible Histories: Magna Carta Special. **5.45** The Great British Sewing Bee. (R)

6.45 Flog It! Experts Thomas Plant and Michael Baggott are in Edinburgh, where items brought in by locals include a small ivory trinket box and an example of Monart.

7.35 Britain's Tudor Treasure: A Night at Hampton Court. With the royal palace celebrating its 500th anniversary this year, Lucy Worsley and David Starkey present a recreation of the christening service of Henry VIII's son and heir Edward on October 15, 1537. The two historians reveal how Henry's household came together for an occasion that used every part of Hampton Court Palace, from the royal apartments and the kitchens to the Chapel Royal, producing a pageant that was deeply political as well as being a carefully stage-managed performance. (R)

8.35 Dad's Army. Mainwaring's platoon tries to raise money for the local Spitfire fund by having a bash at morris dancing. Classic comedy first broadcast in 1974, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)

9.05 QI XL. Extended edition. Ross Noble, Kathy Lette, Sue Perkins and Alan Davies attempt to answer host Stephen Fry's range of fiendish questions on the topic of ladies and gents.

9.50 Film: Broken. (2012) Premiere. An 11-year-old girl's innocent outlook on life is shattered when she sees her neighbour brutally attack a man he suspects of raping his daughter. The incident leaves her unable to trust any of the people and places she had previously considered safe, but finds solace in a friendship with the victim of the assault. Drama, starring Eloise Laurence.

11.15 Film: Seven Years in Tibet. (1997) Fact-based drama, starring Brad Pitt and David Thewlis.

1.25 Film: Glory Road. (2006) **3.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **8.30** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.50** Scrambled!: Hulk and the Agents of Smash. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.40** The Undriveables. (R) **2.05** The Chase. (R) **3.05** Doc Martin. (R) **4.10** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **5.05** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.15** ITV News; Weather. **5.30** You've Been Framed! Strikes Back! (R)

6.30 Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes. Five members of the public impersonate their favourite pop stars as they battle it out for the last place in next week's final of the talent show.

7.30 Planet's Got Talent. Featuring a man who jumps into paddling pools from incredible heights, a parrot that speaks fluent English, and one of the most dangerous acts ever seen on the show.

8.05 Take Me Out. Lifeguard Liam from Newcastle, barista Jonathon from Newport, hairdresser Nick from Pontefract and bagpiper Glenn from Glasgow all vie for the attentions of 30 single women, intent on capturing their interest and securing a date. However, first they must get the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. Host Paddy McGuinness monitors their progress and reviews the dating action from last week's couples on the Isle of Fernandos.

9.20 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by Stephen Fry, for his first TV interview since his wedding, former England cricket captain Andrew Flintoff and comedy actor Kevin Hart.

10.20 ITV News; Weather.

10.35 Film: Hard Target. (1993) An out-of-work merchant sailor investigates sadistic hunters who stalk human prey in New Orleans. John Woo's action thriller, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme.

12.20 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Trans World Sport. **7.00** Cycling: Revolution Series. **7.55** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** Frasier. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** Child Genius. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **5.30** The Simpsons. (R)

6.00 The Simpsons. Bart goes to work as a comedian in a burlesque theatre and proves a hit with its clientele – until Marge turns up with an angry mob in tow and tries to demolish the place. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Our Guy in India. Guy Martin takes a 1,000-mile journey across India to compete in a race called Rider Mania, the world's largest gathering of Royal Enfield motorbikes. In the first of two programmes, the daredevil rides with a 50-strong biker gang, visits Asia's biggest truck yard and finds himself completely out of his comfort zone. (R)

8.00 The World's Weirdest Weather. In America, the waters of Lake Erie turn pea green, while a man in New Zealand finds eels swimming in his street after a sudden and violent downpour. A photographer captures rare images of a moustache cloud, New York City grinds to a halt as onlookers witness the beautiful sunset known as "Manhattanhenge", and in Hawaii, volcanic lava creates tornados of steam on the ocean surface. A terrifying mudslide roars through a sleepy Austrian village, while wind and rain carve ancient rocks into giant mushroom-like shapes in Egypt.

9.00 Film: American Reunion. (2012) Premiere. Jim Levenstein and his old friends return to their home town for a high-school reunion. Struck by how much their lives have changed, they set out to relive the sexual misadventures of their adolescence, but only end up making bigger fools of themselves than they did as teenagers. Comedy sequel, starring Jason Biggs and Alyson Hannigan.

11.15 Film: Panic Room. (2002) Thriller, with Jodie Foster.

1.20 Film: Earthquake. (1974) **3.25** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.25** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** SpongeBob SquarePants. **10.35** Access. **10.40** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **11.40** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **12.35** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **1.35** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **2.35 Film:** U-571. (2000) Second World War adventure, starring Matthew McConaughey. **4.45 Film:** Columbo: Murder in Malibu. (1990) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk.

6.35 5 News Weekend.

6.40 NCIS. The team is called to a high school on a Marine base, where a pupil has taken his classmates hostage and is threatening to detonate a bomb strapped to his chest. Mark Harmon stars. (R)

7.25 NCIS. Gibbs is called to a frozen lake, where two children have discovered the body of a missing marine. The team searches the water for clues and finds three more bullet-ridden corpses, all of which have tattoos linking them to a notorious street gang. The case then becomes a race against time to discover what connects the murders before the serviceman's comrades seek revenge. (R)

8.20 NCIS. Gibbs is assigned to examine the apparent suicide of a Pentagon cryptographer suspected of spying. The case is thrown into disarray by the discovery of evidence indicating another person was present at the time of death – meaning the real mole may still be on the loose and has already killed at least once. Crime drama, with Mark Harmon and David McCallum. (R)

9.20 NCIS. A suspect dies while being restrained by Ziva, who finds herself accused of using undue force and becomes the subject of an internal investigation. Drama, starring Cote de Pablo. (R)

10.15 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. The team works with the CDC to contain a deadly outbreak in Las Vegas when Sara and Greg are quarantined after responding to a crime scene contaminated with a lethal virus.

11.10 Law & Order. A pregnant security guard is injured when a package explodes at a scientific research lab, prompting Green and Lupo to look at a chemist's latest experiments.

12.10 SuperCasino. **3.10** 10,000 BC. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth **8.00** Top Gear **9.00 Film:** Butterfly on a Wheel (2007) **10.30** Russell Howard's Good News **11.00** Family Guy **2.00** Crims **2.30** South Side Story **3.00** Russell Howard's Good News **3.30** Sweat the Small Stuff **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Yellowstone: Unnatural Histories **8.00** Bright Lights, Brilliant Minds: A Tale of Three Cities **9.00** Spiral **10.50** Charlie Brooker's Weekly Wipe **11.20** Queen: Days of Our Lives **1.20** Top of the Pops: 1980 **2.00** Bright Lights, Brilliant Minds: A Tale of Three Cities **3.00** Sounds of the 70s **3.30** Close

ITV2
11.15 The Cube: Celebrity Special **12.15 Film:** Honey (2003) **2.10 Film:** Small Soldiers (1998) **4.20** You've Been Framed: Kids Special **5.20 Film:** Rumor Has It (2005) **7.25 Film:** Stormbreaker (2006) **9.20** Take Me Out – The Gossip **10.05** Reality Bites **10.50** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **11.20 Film:** Death Race (2008) **1.25** Fake Reaction **2.05** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.50 A Touch of Frost **2.00** Wycliffe **3.05 Film:** Mutiny on the Buses (1972) **5.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Lewis **12.05** A Touch of Frost **2.05** Judge Judy **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.00 Hogan's Heroes **12.40** The Car Chasers **2.30** Counting Cars **3.25** Pawn Stars **5.10** Storage Wars **6.10** Storage Wars: Texas **7.10 Film:** Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment (1985) **9.00 Film:** Lethal Weapon 4 (1998) **11.30 Film:** Monty Python's The Meaning of Life (1983) **1.40** The Motorbike Show **2.30** Hogan's Heroes **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.00 Taking New York: Sneak Peek **11.35** 2 Broke Girls **12.00** New Girl **1.00** Melissa & Joey **2.00** How I Met Your Mother **3.00** Troy **4.00** The Jump **5.00** The Jump: On the Piste **5.35** The 100 **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991) **11.40** The Inbetweeners **12.50** How I Met Your Mother **1.50** The Cleveland Show **3.05** Don't Trust the B**** in Apartment 23 **3.50** The New Normal **4.10** Desperate Housewives **4.55** My Fair Wedding

Film4
11.00 On the Fiddle (1961) **1.00** 27 Dresses (2008) **3.25** The Wind Rises (2013) **6.10** Transformers (2007) **9.00** Hanna (2011) **11.10** Don't Be Afraid of the Dark (2010) **1.15** Snake in the Eagle's Shadow (1978) **3.25** Close

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CHOICE

Guy Martin

Our Guy in India (Channel 4, 9pm)

Grimsby has suddenly made it onto the media map. Strictly Come Dancing's Kevin and Joanne Clifton hail from there, and so does the star of this series, biker Guy Martin. Last week's edition saw him set off on a 1,000-mile trip across India on his Royal Enfield motorcycle, and he continues the journey here by calling in Mumbai. He visits a slum which changes his perception of what such a place is like before sampling the refreshing sensation of monsoon season. Guy makes the final leg of his journey on a traditional trawler en route to Goa, but ignores the resort's famous beaches and heads straight for his ultimate goal – Rider Mania, which has the largest gathering of Royal Enfields on the planet.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** Eat Well for Less? (R) **4.00** Your Home in Their Hands. **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.00 Animals in Love. Part two of two. How animals attract a mate, from female capuchin monkeys flirting with the alpha male to the orang-utan that chooses its partner in a very 21st-century way.

7.00 Countryfile. The decline of birds in Leicestershire and Rutland, revealing how farmers and volunteers are trying to encourage them back onto the land and restore their habitat. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Call the Midwife. Sister Winifred makes it her mission to promote safe sex among the local prostitute population. Sister Monica Joan feels sidelined, while Trixie and Tom argue over their future.

9.00 The British Academy Film Awards. Stephen Fry hosts the Bafta ceremony live from the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, as stars of the silver screen gather to pat one another on the back in a celebration of the past 12 months' cinematic achievements, while the nominated ones keep their fingers crossed that they won't be going home empty-handed. Birdman, Boyhood, The Grand Budapest Hotel, The Imitation Game and The Theory of Everything compete for best film, while the leading actor categories see Benedict Cumberbatch, Eddie Redmayne, Ralph Fiennes, Felicity Jones and Rosamund Pike flying the flag for Britain. However, they face stiff competition from Jake Gyllenhaal, Michael Keaton, Amy Adams, Julianne Moore and Reese Witherspoon.

11.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

11.30 The Apprentice USA. The celebrity candidates have to create a promotional display for a famous brand of suntan lotion.

12.50 Weather for the Week Ahead.

12.55 BBC News.

BBC2

6.20 Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.20** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **8.05** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** The Football League Show. (R) **10.20** Six Nations Rewind. **11.20** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **12.50** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **1.20** Food & Drink. (R) **1.50 Film:** The Mouse That Roared. (1959) Comedy, starring Peter Sellers. **3.15** Open All Hours. (R) **3.45** To the Manor Born. (R) **4.15** Hi-de-Hi! (R) **4.45** Flog It! Trade Secrets. **5.15** Alaska – Earth's Frozen Kingdom. (R)

6.15 Ski Sunday. Graham Bell and Ed Leigh present from the alpine skiing World Championships in Vail/Beaver Creek, Colorado, featuring the men's and women's downhill races.

7.00 The Motorway: Life in the Fast Lane. Documentary series charting life on the M6, one of the busiest stretches of motorway in Britain, following the teams preparing for one of the stormiest winters on record. Initially set up in answer to a January 2003 snowstorm that left drivers stranded in their cars for up to 18 hours, these teams have been preparing for snow and ice – but now find themselves facing the stormiest winter in more than 40 years. It's all hands on deck if the Highways Agency is to save its reputation. (R)

8.00 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May attempt to improve the ambulance, with each enhancing the one area they think could do with an overhaul.

9.00 Dragons' Den. Ideas pitched include an idea for giving high heels a new lease of life, eco-friendly coffins, a sleek new take on the electric toothbrush and an online shopping service for men.

10.00 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman introduces the latest Premier League matches, featuring West Ham United v Manchester United, Burnley v West Bromwich Albion and Newcastle United v Stoke City.

11.15 Film: Disconnect. (2012) The complex lives of several strangers are made far more problematic by the technology they use to communicate. Ensemble drama, starring Jason Bateman.

1.05 Film: Savage Grace. (2007) **2.30** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.25** Holby City. (R) **4.25** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.30** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.50** Scrambled!: Deadtime Stories. (R) **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes. (R) **1.40** Off Their Rockers. (R) **2.10** Mel & Sue's Best Bits. **3.15** Tipping Point. (R) **4.15 Film:** Moonraker. (1979) James Bond spy adventure, starring Roger Moore.

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Get Your Act Together. Steps singer Claire Richards is mentored by fire-eating act the Black Fire Girls, former politician Ann Widdecombe joins circus ringmaster Norman Barrett, one-time Coronation Street star Oliver Mellor (Dr Matt Carter) is coached by musical quintet the Bottle Boys, TOWIE's Elliott Wright teams up with Cyr wheel performer Billy George, and TV personality Nancy Dell'Olio collaborates with illusionist Hans Klok. Host Stephen Mulhern follows the rehearsals leading up to the contestants' big performances as they compete for a place in the final in two weeks' time.

8.15 All Star Family Fortunes. Benidorm actress Crissy Rock (Janey) and Ian "H" Watkins from Steps team up with their families in an attempt to win a jackpot of £30,000 for charity.

9.00 Mr Selfridge. Harry pushes ahead with plans for the Selfridge Estate, aiming to buy a field at auction, but an unexpected rival bidder poses a threat. Miss Mardle makes her mark in fashion.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Perspectives: Lenny Henry – Finding Shakespeare. The comedian charts his changing relationship with the Bard, from finding his works boring as a child to starring in productions of Othello and The Comedy of Errors. (R)

11.15 LV= Cup Rugby Union.

12.15 The Store. **2.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.15** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 NFL: Rush Zone. **6.45** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.10** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.55** The Simpsons. (R) **3.25 Film:** Marmaduke. (2010) Comedy, starring Lee Pace. **5.10** Channel 4 News. **5.30 Film:** Ice Age. (2002) Animated adventure, with the voice of John Leguizamo.

7.00 The Jump. Davina McCall presents the semi-final, as the six remaining celebrities compete in high-speed, head-to-head snowboarding races negotiating the steep banks of a slalom tunnel. Concludes tomorrow at 8pm.

8.00 The Hotel. Mark wants to make the Cavendish more child-friendly and asks general manager James to take charge of a family fun day, hoping the task will make him more decisive in his role.

9.00 Our Guy in India. Part two of two. Guy Martin visits Mumbai, where more skyscrapers are being built than anywhere else in the world, and clambers 833ft to the top of India's tallest building, the Imperial. Back on ground level, the daredevil visits a slum where a million people live in the space of one square mile, before experiencing a downpour on his Royal Enfield with the arrival of the monsoons. To avoid slow-moving and dangerous roads, he makes the final leg of his 1,000-mile journey by sea, on his way to compete in Rider Mania.

10.05 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Team captains Sean Lock and Jon Richardson are joined by Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer, while Jack Whitehall is in Dictionary Corner with Susie Dent. Jimmy Carr hosts. (R)

11.05 Film: Patriot Games. (1992) A former CIA agent prevents an assassination attempt by an IRA splinter group, but one of the terrorists swears revenge on him. Thriller, starring Harrison Ford and Sean Bean.

1.10 The Last Leg. (R) **2.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.10** Kirstie's Best of Both Worlds. (R) **5.05** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. **7.10** Olly the Little White Van. **7.15** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.30** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.40** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Wanda and the Alien. **8.30** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.40** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.55** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.10** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.25** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** SpongeBob SquarePants. **10.30** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) **11.25** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) **12.20** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) **1.20 Film:** It Could Happen to You. (1994) Romantic comedy, with Nicolas Cage and Bridget Fonda. **3.15 Film:** Over Her Dead Body. (2008) Supernatural romantic comedy, starring Eva Longoria and Paul Rudd. **4.55** 5 News Weekend. **5.00 Film:** What to Expect When You're Expecting. (2012) Comedy drama, starring Cameron Diaz.

6.55 Film: Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous. (2005) FBI agent Gracie Hart is taken off active duty and made the face of the bureau's publicity campaign, but would rather catch crooks than be the focus of media attention – so when her friends are kidnapped, she disobeys orders to run her own undercover investigation with the help of a short-tempered colleague. Comedy sequel, starring Sandra Bullock.

9.00 Film: The Bounty Hunter. (2010) Premiere. A bail enforcement agent is assigned the task of tracking down his own ex-wife, a wily reporter chasing a story about a murder cover-up. However, bringing his former spouse to justice is harder than he anticipated, not least because she has also been targeted by the criminal she is investigating. Action comedy, starring Gerard Butler and Jennifer Aniston.

11.20 Film: Zack and Miri Make a Porno. (2008) Two friends decide to shoot a porn film, but find having sex for the cameras makes them rethink their feelings for each other. Comedy, starring Seth Rogen and Elizabeth Banks.

1.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** 10 Most Annoying Things About 1999. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes **7.10** The Voice UK **8.30** The British Academy Film Awards: Red Carpet **9.00** Backchat with Jack Whitehall and His Dad **9.30** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Crims **11.15** American Dad! **11.35** Family Guy **12.00** Backchat with Jack Whitehall and His Dad **12.30** South Side Story **1.00** Bangkok Airport **1.55** Abortion: Ireland's Guilty Secret? **2.55** Bangkok Airport **3.50** Close

BBC Four

7.00 The Great War **7.40** Britain's Wild Places **8.00** Mark Lawson Talks to Celia Imrie **9.00** Horizon: Why Can't We Predict Earthquakes? **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** Kings of 70s Romance **11.30** Genesis: Together & Apart **1.00** Genesis: Three Sides Live **2.25** TOTP2: Genesis **3.10** The Sky at Night **3.40** Close

ITV2

11.30 Deirdre and Me: A Tribute **12.00** Take Me Out **1.15** Take Me Out – The Gossip **2.00** Scorpion **2.55 Film:** Rumor Has It (2005) **4.55 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **6.50 Film:** She's the Man (2006) **9.00** The Ibiza Weekender **10.00** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **10.30 Film:** Little Man (2006) **12.25 Film:** I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry (2007)

ITV3

11.35 Agatha Christie's Sparkling Cyanide **1.40** Rosemary & Thyme **2.40** Agatha Christie's Marple **4.40** Inspector Morse **7.00** Lewis **9.00** The Best of the Royal Variety **10.00** Northern Lights **11.05** Wycliffe **12.10 Film:** The Breakfast Club (1985) **2.05** Countrywise Kitchen **2.55** On the Buses **3.20** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4

2.15 Film: Blues Brothers 2000 (1998) **4.40 Film:** Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment (1985) **6.30** Africa Cup of Nations Live. The final (Kick-off 7.00pm). **9.30** Storage Wars **10.00 Film:** Driven to Kill (2009) **12.00** River Monsters: Untold Stories **1.00** Hell on Wheels **1.55** The Cycle Show **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.30 Revenge **1.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.30** The 100 **3.30** Melissa & Joey **4.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **5.00** Marry Me **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **6.30** The Jump: On the Piste **7.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Mission: Impossible (1996) **10.10** The Inbetweeners **11.15** The Big Bang Theory **12.20** 2 Broke Girls **12.45** Rules of Engagement **1.45** The New Normal

Film4

11.00 A Man Alone (1955) **1.00** Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) **2.45** Addams Family Values (1993) **4.35** Three Men and a Baby (1987) **6.45** The Company Men (2010) **9.00** Paul (2011) **11.05** Fitzcarraldo (1982) **2.15** The Punk Singer (2013) **4.00** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
16 Blocks, Channel 5, 11pm
A burned-out detective is given the task of escorting a criminal to court to testify against a group of corrupt policemen – but what seems to be a routine assignment quickly turns into a deadly game of cat and mouse as the crooked officers try to stop them reaching the courthouse alive. Thriller, starring Bruce Willis. (2006)

The Disappearance of Alice Creed, BBC1, 12.30am
Two criminals kidnap the daughter of a wealthy family, with the intention of demanding a ransom. However, the hostage is not the helpless victim she appears, while she and both her captors have secrets that threaten to throw the plan into disorder. Thriller, with Gemma Arterton, Eddie Marsan and Martin Compston. (2009)

TUESDAY
Carry On Loving, ITV, 11.10pm
A couple who run a dating agency find themselves inundated with customers, and end up arranging a selection of very unlikely matches – while also contending with their own marital difficulties. Comedy, starring Sid James. (1970)

Tron: Legacy, Friday, BBC2, 11.05pm

WEDNESDAY
Dawn of the Dead, BBC1, 12.45am
Four people take refuge in a shopping mall from a horde of flesh-eating zombies, clearing out the ghouls already in residence and battening down the hatches. However, their new home is not as secure as they had hoped, and the beleaguered survivors are soon plunged into increasingly grisly battles with their undead foes. George A Romero's horror sequel, starring David Emge, Ken Foree and Gaylen Ross. (1978)

FRIDAY
Gosford Park, ITV, 10.40pm
A weekend shooting party at a country estate is disrupted by a murder. As the numerous guests deal with their own personal agendas, their actions are quietly observed by their servants, notably an inquisitive maid, who drink in the scandalous gossip while maintaining their own strict social hierarchy. Robert Altman's period drama, starring Maggie Smith. (2001)

Tron: Legacy, BBC2, 11.05pm
A man searching for his father is sucked into a computer-generated world and must compete in gladiatorial combat. Sci-fi adventure, starring Jeff Bridges and Garrett Hedlund. (2010)

PICK OF THE WEEK

The stars shine brightly on a glittering occasion

Award shows are sycophantic and ten a penny. So why-oh-why do we find ourselves continually drawn to the predictable run of well-rehearsed accolades, TV clips, a conveyor belt of celebrity guests droning "... and the winner is..." and half-hearted applause which gets weaker as the evening draws on?

The answer is, quite simply, because they're addictive. From the moment you dare to mutter, "Let's just watch this bit..." you're hooked, unable to tear yourself away from "just one more" clip or the next star guest in case you miss a vital snippet of gossip which will be the talk of the town by the morning.

So, which films and their stars will be hitting the headlines on Monday? It's highly likely that The Grand Budapest Hotel, Birdman and The Theory of Everything will dominate the ceremony – The Grand Budapest Hotel leads the way with 11 nominations, while the other two trail not very far behind with 10 each.

But the likes of The Imitation Game, Boyhood, Whiplash, Nightcrawler and homegrown favourites Mr Turner and Pride have the potential to cause a few upsets.

It's a big night for host Stephen Fry too – this will be the 10th time he's presented the event, which takes place once again at London's Royal Opera House in Covent Garden.

"Hosting the Film Awards has always been a highlight of my year," says Fry. "The opportunity to help the Academy promote filmmaking and encourage cinema-going means a lot to me.

"I've met many heroes and had the honour of introducing many young talents that are now busy forging remarkable careers for themselves. Seeing the photos from each year back I can chart my bewildering changes in weight too...

"Hard as it may be for some characteristically sceptical Britons to believe, the Baftas have real kudos, reputation and cachet all over the world of film-making," he adds. "I, old as I am, never cease to be shamelessly glamorised by the sight of so many legendary names who come every year as nominees and presenters."

Everyone at the BBC will be smiling on the night too – its film division is assured of at least one gong, having been given the Outstanding Contribution to British Cinema award.

"I cannot think of a more deserving institution for this award than BBC Films, unbelievably in its 25th year and with more than 250 predominantly British films in its catalogue," explains Nick Powell, chairman of Bafta's film committee.

"With a wide range of films from populist British box office hits like Billy Elliot and Mrs Brown's Boys D'Movie and an enviable collection of ground-breaking films, I hope that this award will be not simply a recognition of past and present achievements but also an affirmation of why BBC Films is so important for the film industry both here in the UK and further afield. Here's to the next 25 years."

Too right – with a great track record to date, we get the feeling this won't be the last award BBC Films wins. In fact, expect its staff to get not just a pat on the back at this ceremony, but at many more similar events for decades to come.

Stephen Fry hosts, The British Academy Film Awards, Sunday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Heston's Recipe for Romance
Channel 4, 9pm
Every year, around 16 million couples in the UK celebrate Valentine's Day with a romantic meal, but is there really a connection between food and love? In this one-off special, Heston Blumenthal joins forces with a team of scientists and psychologists to put together a menu they hope will affect how people feel about each other. Five couples at different stages of their relationships are invited to a dinner that includes chocolate in every course, plus a 'Cupid's cocktail', featuring a scent designed to trigger a romantic memory.

TUESDAY
The Secret Life of Four-Year-Olds
Channel 4, 8pm
Documentary exploring the world of 10 four-year-olds as they meet in a nursery rigged with cameras that capture every glance, whisper, tussle and emotion. With their parents watching on monitors, the children encounter one another for the first time in October and then again in May. Overseeing the action are two experts – educational neuroscientist Paul Howard-Jones and developmental psychologist Sam Wass – as the youngsters make and break friendships, and find their place in this new social group.

The Gift
BBC1, 9pm
New series. Mel Giedroyc and Matt Baker meet people who would like to find someone after many years so they can say thank you or sorry. In 1987, soldier Patrick Provis was left fighting for his life after being hit by an IRA mortar. An Army helicopter crew flew in to rescue him – and Patrick cannot rest until he has thanked the person who took the decision to save him. Grace Bates has spent almost 60 years wanting to apologise to Herman, the first man she ever loved. They met as teenagers in the 1950s, but a terrible mistake by Grace left Herman heartbroken.

WEDNESDAY
The Great Comic Relief Bake Off
BBC1, 8pm
Forget the fact that more than 13 million people tuned into last year's final – if you want proof that The Great British Bake Off is a genuine hit, just look at the calibre of stars turning out for this, the first of four celebrity charity edition. Sue Perkins (Mel is otherwise engaged) is on presenting duties as Joanna Lumley, Jennifer Saunders, Lulu, and Dame Edna Everage pick up their bowls and get whisking. But while we may be impressed to see these four entertainment legends together in one tent, Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry will be judging them purely on their baking ability, as they attempt to make a giant cookie or biscuit, 12 mini fruit tarts, and a tiered chocolate cake inspired by a memorable occasion.

Barging Round Britain with John Sergeant, Friday, ITV, 8pm

THURSDAY
The Mentalist
Channel 5, 10pm
New series. Return of the crime drama about a consultant working for the California Bureau of Investigation. Lisbon asks Jane not to tell their colleagues about their new relationship yet, as she only recently broke up with Agent Pike. They return to the CBI offices to find that Emily Swallow has left for Seattle and has been replaced by Quantico rookie Michelle Vega, while of more immediate concern is a case involving the murder of an FBI agent who had been investigating a gun runner. Simon Baker and Robin Tunney star.

FRIDAY
Barging Round Britain with John Sergeant
ITV, 8pm
It seems difficult to imagine in this day and age, what with roads and trains being so reliable, but once upon a time Britain relied upon its canal network to keep its industry ticking over. Nowadays, of course, the waterways tend to be more of a lifestyle choice for those who live on them, as opposed to a necessity, and the picturesque scenery plays host to a vibrant community of like-minded people. In this new eight-part series, broadcaster John travels the length and breadth of the nation's canals as he meets some of the unique people who call them home. He begins at the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, which at 127 miles is the country's longest, and enjoys the view as he crosses the Pennines.

NCIS: New Orleans
Channel 5, 9pm
New feature-length episode introducing the new NCIS spin-off. Gibbs heads to Louisiana to help an old friend track down a killer. Mark Harmon and Scott Bakula star.

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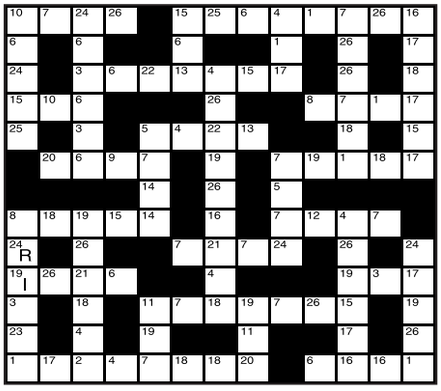
Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19 I
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24 R
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 H	2 S	3 V	4 G	5 Q	6 X	7 Z	8 L	9 I	10 Y	11 P	12 F	13 M
14 K	15 D	16 N	17 B	18 R	19 J	20 T	21 U	22 W	23 O	24 E	25 C	26 A

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

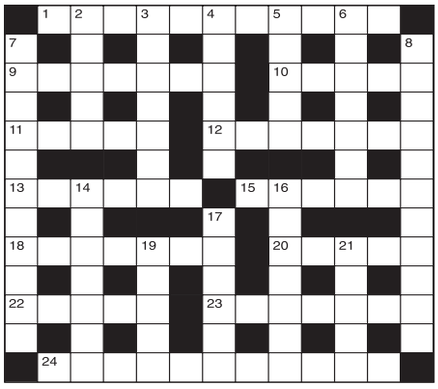
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Their manipulations won't be right (4-7)
9. See 15 Across
10. A base for one who is forging (5)
11. Little room of classical associations (5)
12. Nun gets disturbed by weapon (4-3)
13. You'll find me in the way, as the wanderer did (6)
15 & 9Ac. Tools used by toboggan manufacturers? (6-7)
18. This presents any escape from a bottle-neck (7)
20. It's a piece of simple attire (5)
22. Trees that may be scattered to the winds? (5)
23. Substitute on his feet endlessly (5-2)
24. Liberated retainers who own land (11)

Down

2. The ant is back in the stem, methinks (5)
3. Mulled claret with the last of the wine is sweet stuff (7)
4. Provide aid for a vessel before it's wrecked (6)
5. Bird, the famous sailor (5)
6. Stormed around Virginia and did some pillaging (7)
7. It's occupied by the stall-holder (7,4)
8. Secret tribe to appoint to a certain state (11)
14. An Old Testament female - a different one (7)
16. Friend returns to touch down in the far north (7)
17. Put the others in the Post Office quickly (6)
19. Some cheap stones here if you want to make some dough (5)
21. Tree of greater age (5)



Quick Clues:

Across

1. Abbreviation (11)
9. Edible (7)
10. At no time (5)
11. Eat away (5)
12. Sure (7)
13. Save (6)
15. Cling (6)
18. Representative (7)
20. Of towns (5)
22. Smell (5)
23. Beginning (7)
24. Unrelenting (11)

Down

2. Excel (5)
3. Vivid representation (7)
4. Medium (6)
5. Singer (5)
6. Preclude (7)
7. Insight (11)
8. Inebriation (11)
14. Fancy (7)
16. Daily (7)
17. Lines up (6)
19. Freight (5)
21. Foundation (5)

Sudoku

4			7		3	2		
			9					5
	3	1	5				9	
6		3	8		5			9
1						5		8
9			2		4	3		7
		7			9	4	5	
					2			
		9	6		7			2

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

8	9	5	7	3	1	6	2	4
6	3	4	5	2	9	7	8	1
1	2	7	6	8	4	5	3	9
3	8	2	1	5	7	9	4	6
5	6	1	9	4	2	3	7	8
7	4	9	3	6	8	1	5	2
9	7	8	4	1	3	2	6	5
4	5	3	2	9	6	8	1	7
2	1	6	8	7	5	4	9	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Toy-shops; 5 Idol; 9 Flea; 10 In camera; 11 Seals; 12 Oversee; 13 Slow punctures; 18 Artistry; 19 Rued; 20 Pimpled; 21 Agate; 22 Ring; 23 Bedstraw. Down: 2 Oil-well; 3 Swallow; 4 Pontoon-bridge; 6 Dresser; 7 Leaders; 8 Talent; 13 Scamper; 14 Ottoman; 15 Pestle; 16 Upright; 17 Electra. QUICK - Across: 1 Jettison; 5 Stem; 9 Wand; 10 Addition; 11 Tutor; 12 Include; 13 Senselessness; 18 Antidote; 19 Seek; 20 Liberal; 21 Train; 22 Whet; 23 Assemble. Down: 2 Erasure; 3 Tedious; 4 Old wives' tales; 6 Tribute; 7 Manners; 8 Discus; 13 Shallow; 14 Notable; 15 Endure; 16 Nostrum; 17 Special.

Quiz

1. Which film star was born Margarita Carmen Cansino?
2. Of which autonomous Spanish region is Pamplona capital?
3. Of what nationality was Errol Flynn?
4. At which racecourse is the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe run?
5. Who, in the Old Testament, fashioned the Golden Calf?
6. Pennsylvania was originally established as a refuge for which religious sect?
7. Which Gospel author is patron saint of artists?
8. Which pipe-making material is also called sepiolite?
9. In which US state is Fort Knox?
10. How are artists Proesch and Passmore better known?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 The old London Bridge; 2 Glasgow; 3 A bird; 4 Halley's Comet; 5 Bob Fosse; 6 Iceland; 7 Brian Redhead; 8 All Saints' Day; 9 Sugar Ray Leonard; 10 Robert Kennedy.

Niner: SPREADING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

752435 gives a flower,
1368 gives a tree,
9887 gives a plant.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

CP BIGWOOD
RESIDENTIAL AUCTION HOUSE OF THE YEAR 2014

AUCTION
26th February 2015

Gold The Negotiator AWARDS 2014 Residential Auction House of the Year

Silver Auction Estate Agency of the Year 2014 The Sunday Times

at Aston Villa Football Ground

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Residential Investment Properties
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ENTRIES NOW INVITED FOR OUR NEXT AUCTION

6 Black Lake, West Bromwich
3 Bedroom End Terraced Property
Guide: £60,000 - £65,000

37 Southwick Road, Halesowen
3 Bedroom End Terraced Property
Guide: £68,000 - £73,000

174 Appleton Avenue, Great Barr
3 Bedroom Semi Detached Property
Guide: £50,000 plus

49 Birmingham New Road, Tipton
3 Bedroom Semi Detached Property
Guide: £55,000 plus

42 North Drive, Sutton Coldfield
2 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
Guide: £50,000 plus

8 Littleworth Avenue, Dudley
3 Bedroom Semi Detached Property
Guide: £49,000 - £54,000

T: 0121 233 5046 W: cpbigwood.com @CPBigwood

*Please note charges may apply in addition to the purchase price on some lots *For a definition of Guide Price & Reserve price please refer to our catalogue or website

Three-bed detached has a reduced asking price

THIS three-bedroomed detached in Charlemont Road, West Bromwich is for sale through Bartrams at a reduced £195,950.

With central heating and double glazing it has an entrance hall, WC, an open plan lounge and an open staircase off to the first floor, a conservatory, a kitchen, a dining room, garage, utility room with sink and base units, three bedrooms (all with fitted wardrobes), a bathroom, off road parking for around three cars at the front and a rear garden with a shed.

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SKITTS

ESTATE AGENTS

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EPC: C

Tipton
Harper Grove

- Four bed semi
- GCH & DG
- Lounge with juliet balcony
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Garage

£675pcm

EPC: B

Tipton
Hill Street

- Three bed detached home
- Fitted kitchen diner
- Double glazing
- Gas central heating (where specified)
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Private garden

£650pcm

EPC: E

Tipton
Watery Lane

- Three bed detached house
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Central heating & double glazing
- Landscaped gardens
- Fitted breakfast kitchen

£625pcm

NEW

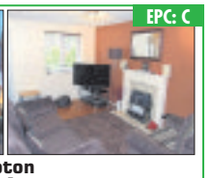
EPC: D

Tividale
City Road

- Three bedroom semi
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen with cooker
- Family bathroom
- Rear garden

£525pcm

NEW



EPC: C

Tipton
Hellier Avenue

- Two bed semi
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- ORP
- Kitchen with oven and hob
- Bathroom with shower
- Landscaped gardens

£525pcm

EPC: F

Tipton
St Marks Road

- Second floor flat
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom with shower over
- Communal gardens
- Gas centrally heating
- Unfurnished

£525pcm

EPC: C

Tipton
Devey Drive

- Two bed semi
- Double glazed windows
- GCH
- Lounge with feature fire
- Fitted kitchen with oven and hob

£525pcm

EPC: D

Wednesbury
Booth Road

- Two bed semi
- Fitted kitchen with appliances
- Double glazed
- Gas centrally heated
- Off road parking
- Rear garden
- Available immediately

£525pcm

EPC: C

Tipton
Lissimore Drive

- Two bed apartment
- GCH and DG
- Fitted kitchen with appliances
- Bathroom with shower
- Allocated car parking
- Available immediately

£495pcm

EPC: D

Wednesbury
Blenheim Drive

- Two bed first floor apartment
- Part furnished
- Double glazed
- Fully fitted open plan kitchen
- Communal gardens
- Tipton office

£450pcm

EPC: C

Tipton
Bonneville Close

- One bed apartment.
- DG & GCH
- Fitted kitchen
- Lounge
- Bathroom with electric shower
- Allocated parking

£395pcm

EPC: D

Tipton
Wynn Griffith Drive

- One bedroom semi
- Ideal for young families or working professionals
- GCH and DG
- Fully fitted breakfast kitchen
- Bathroom with shower

£395pcm

TENANTS!

OUR APPLICATION FEES ARE ONLY

£180 inc. VAT

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£50.00 PER ADDITIONAL APPLICANT

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ARLA

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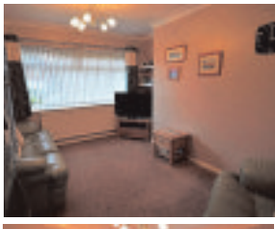
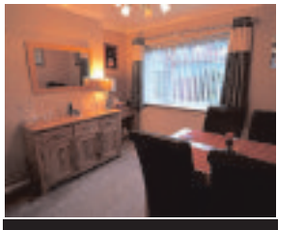
NEW

Ferndale Road, Oldbury

- Well Presented Semi Detached
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Pleasant Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating C

Offers in the region of £119,950

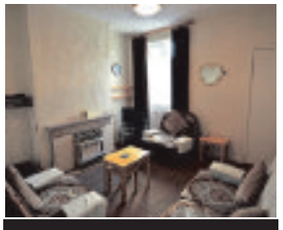
NEW

Aldridge Close, Oldbury

- Much Improve Bungalow
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Contemporary Shower Room
- Modern Kitchen
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating C

Offers in the region of £148,000

NEW



Gladys Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Requires Modernisation
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £94,950

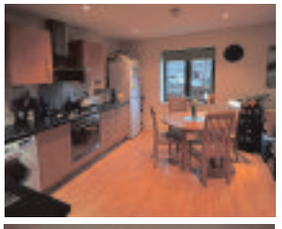
NEW

Coplow Street, Edgbaston

- Traditional End Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Ideal Investment Opportunity
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £149,950

NEW

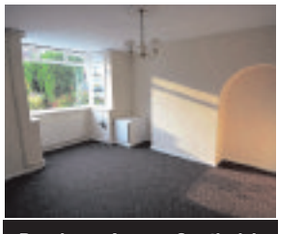


Spire Court, Manor Road, Edgbaston

- Modern GF Apartment
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Open Plan Kitchen/ Lounge
- Contemporary Bathroom
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating C

Offers in the region of £132,500

NEW PRICE

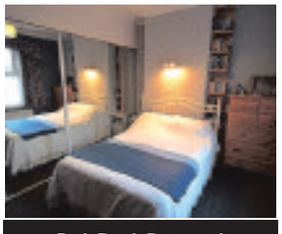


Broadmoor Avenue, Smethwick

- Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Bay Fronted Lounge
- Modern Style Kitchen
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £99,950

NEW PRICE



Park Road, Bearwood

- Well Presented Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Modern Style Kitchen
- Period Features
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the Region of £159,950

NOW AVAILABLE

Vernon Road, Oldbury

- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Modern Style Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £87,500

MEET THE TEAM!

Over the next 6 weeks we will be introducing to you each member of the successful Hagley Road team. So when you instruct us to sell your home, you will know exactly who we are and how we will be assisting with your move!

Watch this space...

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DEREK SPIRES ESTATE AGENTS

Traditional values, modern techniques

NEW

30 BREWER SQUARE, EDGBASTON

- Spacious well presented top/second floor apartment
- Gas centrally heated and double glazed
- Allocated parking
- Lounge/dining room and kitchen
- Master bedroom with en-suite shower room
- Further double bedroom and family bathroom

|INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED

- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £134,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

REDUCED

6 JOHNSONS GROVE, OLDBURY

- Quiet cul-de-sac location

|Link detached bungalow

- Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
- Gas centrally heated

|Off-street parking

- Fully tiled shower room & separate cloakroom
- Lounge, refitted kitchen & conservatory
- Two/three bedrooms
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £189,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

AUCTION

Our next auction will take place on

MONDAY 9th MARCH 2015

and will include the following lots:

Smethwick : 23 Clarendon Road Traditional 2 bedroomed terraced in need of general improvement	£ 70,000 – 75,000
Handsworth, 24 Westbourne Road Freehold 2 bedroomed end terraced in need of modernisation	£ 65,000 – 70,000
Bearwood, 98 Rathbone Road Freehold centrally heated and double glazed 3 bedroomed semi-detached in need of upgrading	£ 90,000 – 100,000
Smethwick, 13 Jacmar Crescent Traditional 3 bedroomed freehold centrally heated semi-detached, with garage	£110,000 – 120,000
Smethwick, 43 Durban Road Freehold 2 bedroomed terraced in need of complete refurbishment	circa. 65,000
Smethwick, 9 Dexter House, Ford Street Centrally heated and double glazed modern 1 bedroomed flat, ideal investment	£ 55,000 – 60,000
Willenhall, 9 York Avenue Freehold 3 bedroomed semi-detached residence needing full improvement	£ 75,000 – 80,000
Smethwick, 13 Highfield Road Traditional freehold double glazed and centrally heated terraced	£ 85,000 – 90,000
Oldbury, 40 Farm Road Freehold centrally heated 3 bedroomed terraced, in need of improvement	£ 65,000 – 70,000
Smethwick, 159 Stony Lane Freehold 3 bedroomed centrally heated semi-detached	£ 95,000 – 100,000
Oldbury, 4 Brook Road Freehold 3 bedroomed semi-detached needing full improvement	circa. 70,000

Entries still being accepted
DEADLINE DAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2015

30 ASHBOURNE, EDGBASTON

Derek Spires Estate Agents are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £84,000 for 30 Ashbourne Road, Edgbaston B16 0JS. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Derek Spires Estate Agents, 602 Bearwood Road, Bearwood B66 4BW.

|ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £85,000

Viewings Bearwood Office

34 PARGETER ROAD, BEARWOOD

Derek Spires Estate Agents are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £90,000 for 34 Pargeter Road, Bearwood B67 5HY. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Derek Spires Estate Agent 602 Bearwood Road, Bearwood. B66 4BW. 01214204646 before exchange of contracts.

- ENERGY RATING F

OFFERS BASED ON £90,000

Viewings Bearwood Office

1 DAMIAN CLOSE, SMETHWICK

- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Semi-detached bungalow
- Centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Refitted kitchen & bathroom
- Two double bedrooms
- Refurbished with inspection to be appreciated
- Separate garage in block

OFFERS BASED ON £144,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

174 LIGHTWOODS HILL, WARLEY

|Stunning outlook facing Warley Woods

- Extended freehold semi-detached
- Gas centrally heated and mostly double glazed
- 4 bedrooms, two bathrooms and split level shower room
- Two reception rooms and third reception room/ leisure room
- Extended kitchen/breakfast room and utility
- Gardens and off-street parking
- PRIME LOCATION AND MUST BE VIEWED
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £410,000

Viewing Bearwood Office

NEW

130 TRINITY ROAD SOUTH, WEST

- Well presented semi-detached
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Fully tiled shower room
- Hall with original minton tiled floor
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £135,000

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

NEW

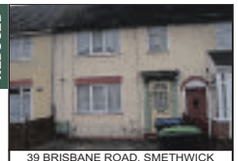
128 HARBORNE ROAD BEARWOOD

- Superbly situated individual detached residence
- Excellent family accommodation or investment with consent for multi-occupation
- Gas central heating
- Directly facing Warley Woods
- 6 bedrooms as private house or 7 bedrooms for multi-occupation
- 18ft lounge and separate dining room
- Cloaks/shower room
- 20ft x 14ft fully fitted dining kitchen
- Sun lounge
- Easily maintained gardens and garage included
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £475,000

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

REDUCED



39 BRISBANE ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Gas centrally heated

{Double glazed

{Three bedrooms

{Open plan lounge/diner

{Extended kitchen

- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £97,500

VIEWING BEARWOOD OFFICE

97 DUFTON ROAD, QUINTON

Derek Spires Estate Agents are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £87,000 for 97 Dufton Road, Quinton. B32-2PT. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Derek Spires Estate Agent 602 Bearwood Road, Bearwood B620HR. 01214204646 before exchange of contracts.

|ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £84,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

11 PHEASANT ROAD, SMETHWICK

|Fully refurbished end town house

|Gas centrally heated and double glazed

|Through lounge/dining room

|Refitted kitchen/breakfast room

|Three bedrooms

|Fully tiled bathroom

|Block paved parking & side garage

- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £174,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

117 IVY HOUSE ROAD, OLDBURY

|Well presented semi-detached

|Gas centrally heated

|Virtually PVC double glazed throughout

|Three bedrooms and bathroom

|Lounge, dining room and kitchen

|Downstairs cloakroom

|Deceptively spacious garden

- Ideal FTBs
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £99,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

NEW

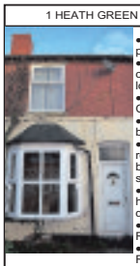
135 HURST ROAD SMETHWICK

- Close to Warley Woods & Lightwoods Park
- Gas centrally heated
- Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
- Three bedrooms & bathroom to first floor
- Spacious lounge & open access to dining room
- Kitchen and utility
- Downstairs W.C.
- Off-street parking for two cars
- IDEAL FTBS
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £119,999

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

1 HEATH GREEN GROVE,



- End terraced property
- Extremely convenient location
- Freehold & Chain Free
- Three bedrooms
- Two living rooms, kitchen, bathroom & small garden
- Centrally heated and double glazed
- IN NEED OF RENOVATION
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £75,000

Viewings Bearwood Office

34 PARGETER ROAD, BEARWOOD

|Deceptively spacious

|Gas centrally heated

- Part PVC double glazed

|Two spacious double bedrooms

- Two reception rooms

|Kitchen and storeroom

- Numerous original features
- In need of full modernisation

|ENERGY RATING : F

OFFERS BASED ON £90,000

Viewings Bearwood Office

49 PARK ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Superbly presented mid-terraced property
- Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
- Gas centrally heated

|Two bedrooms and bathroom to first floor

- Lounge, dining room and kitchen
- Neatly laid out garden to the rear
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED on £147,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

REDUCED

28 LOXLEY ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Deceptively spacious mid-terraced property
- Virtually double glazed throughout
- Gas centrally heated
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Dining room and lounge
- Kitchen and laundry
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Neatly laid out garden to the rear
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £169,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

5 ROSLYN CLOSE, SMETHWICK

- Modern first floor maisonette
- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Two bedrooms and bathroom
- Spacious lounge/dining room and fitted kitchen
- Excellent storage facilities
- Gated off-street parking
- Garden/drying area
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING: C

OFFERS BASED ON £86,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

10 WESTFIELD ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Freehold mid-terraced property.
- Located close to Smethwick High Street and providing easy access to Birmingham City Centre.
- Gas centrally heated and fully PVC double glazed.
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom and garden.
- Ideally suited for first time buyers.
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £112,000

Viewing Bearwood Office

116 POPLAR AVENUE, EDGBASTON

|Deceptively spacious family accommodation

- Gas centrally heated

|Mahogany double glazing

- SIX bedrooms

|Fully tiled bathroom & Downstairs shower room

- Two reception rooms
- Refitted kitchen/ dining room
- Utility/laundry room
- Spacious garden to the rear
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY

OFFERS BASED ON 249,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

REDUCED

15 HARBORNE ROAD, OLDBURY

- End terraced property
- Superbly presented kitchen
- 3 bedrooms
- INSPECTION A MUST
- EPC : F

OFFERS BASED ON £209,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

GOLD MIDLANDS ESTATE AGENCY of the YEAR 2012 THE SUNDAY TIMES

Details of all our properties are available on our website:
www.pauldubberley.co.uk

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the estate agent

West Bromwich 0121 222 1301
Great Bridge 0121 222 1304
Wednesbury 0121 222 1307
or email: westbromwich@pauldubberley.co.uk

Brookfield Way Tipton

- Semi Detached Bungalow
- Annex Having Bedroom Plus Shower Room
- Gas Central heating ● No Upward Chain
- 2 bedrooms ● annexe, epc tbc

OFFERS AROUND: £159,950
Viewing:

Dudley Road Tipton

- Modern Purpose Built First Floor Apartment
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Electric Heating
- No Upward Chain
- 2 bedrooms, EPC C

OFFERS AROUND: £65,000
Viewing:

Great Meadow Tipton

- Attractive Modern Semi Detached
- Superbly Presented Accommodation
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- 3 bedrooms ● en suite, EPC tbc

OFFERS AROUND: £157,500
Viewing:

Holcroft Street Tipton

- Spacious Middle Terrace
- upvc double glazing ● gas central heating
- Viewing recommended
- 2 bedrooms, EPC E

OFFERS AROUND: £76,000
Viewing:

Groveland Road Tipton

- modern first floor apartment
- upvc double glazing
- gas central heating ● no upward chain
- 1 bedroom, EPC C

OFFERS AROUND: £40,000
Viewing:

Manor Road Tipton

- Well Presented End Terrace
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- No Upward Chain ● Corner Plot
- 3 bedrooms, EPC tbc

OFFERS AROUND: £95,000
Viewing:

Thompson House Tipton

- Purpose Built First Floor Flat
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Central Heating
- Security Entrance Doors
- 2 bedrooms, EPC C

OFFERS OVER: £65,000
Viewing:

Thinking of Selling or Letting in 2015?
Problem Solved

In 2014 we achieved:

106,807 website visits, 1,114 sale and let properties marketed, 6,900 applicants registered, 13,028 viewings arranged, 1,867 offers taken, 511 sales agreed, 243 lets agreed

INVITATION

This is your personal invitation to receive a free market appraisal and discuss all aspects of selling or letting your home. Our staff have a wealth of experience and local knowledge to assist and advise you.

What our clients say about our service...

Not only did you find a buyer for my property in record time after it had sat on the market for months with another agent, but you also helped me find my dream home. This is an estate agency that doesn't just make promises, it delivers them. **Mr and Mrs Dutton, Walsall**

Having been with another agent for 4 months with few viewings and no offers, we changed to Paul Dubberley and within a couple of weeks we had received 3 offers and sold STC.
Claire Jennings, Walsall

I genuinely believe that no other estate agent would have given me the service you did or achieved the price that you did for me.
Jennifer Corbett, Essington

Right from instruction I felt you were proactive and had my best interests at heart and nothing was too much trouble
Jane Myatt, West Bromwich

You have restored my faith that there are agents who offer good customer service
Ms Massey, Brownhills

To arrange a free valuation call your local branch today

Dangerfield Lane Wednesbury

- Well Presented 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as spec.)
- No Upward Chain!
- EPC Rating: D, Receptrion Hall

OFFERS AROUND: £105,000
Viewing:

Beebee Road Wednesbury

- Fully Refrubished Semi Detached
- Occupying Corner Plot
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as specified)

OFFERS AROUND: £150,000
Viewing:

Hydes Road Wednesbury

- Individually Built Detached House
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Reception Hall
- No Upward Chain, Lounge

OFFERS AROUND: £99,950
Viewing:

Kent Road Wednesbury

- A Well Presented 2 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- No Upward Chain!
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as spec.)
- EPC Rating: C, Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: £110,000
Viewing:

Meeting Street Wednesbury

- A Modern 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Reception Hall
- EPC Rating: D, Fitted Kitchen with Oven & Hob

OFFERS AROUND: £155,000
Viewing:

Cross Street Wednesbury

- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- No Upward Chain!
- EPC Rating: D, Storm Porch, Reception Hall &

OFFERS AROUND: £110,000
Viewing:

Rayford Drive West Bromwich

- Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Upstairs Bathroom
- Energy Rating TBC, Offering Tremendous Potential

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000
Viewing:

Whitehall Road West Bromwich — NEW

- Three Bedrooms
- Car Port
- Kitchen/Diner
- , Front and Rear Gardens

OFFERS AROUND: £100,000
Viewing:

Haywoods Farm West Bromwich — NEW

- Link Detached
- Ground Floor W/C
- Driveway
- Kitchen/Diner,

165000
OFFERS AROUND: £165,000
Viewing:

The Broadway West Bromwich

- Semi Detached Property
- Cul De Sac Location
- Upstairs Bathroom
- Energy Rating D, Double Glazed Windows

OFFERS AROUND: £120,000
Viewing:

Bird End West Bromwich

- Delightful Detached Bungalow
- Three Double Bedrooms
- En Suite To Master Bedrooms
- Energy Rating C, Double Glazed Conservatory

OFFERS AROUND: £295,000
Viewing:

Mountbatten Close West Bromwich — REDUCED

- Ground Floor Flat
- One Bedroom
- Allocated Parking Space
- , Security Intercom System

OFFERS AROUND: £60,000
Viewing:

The Broadway West Bromwich

- Traditional Semi Detached Property
- Extended Kitchen
- Two Reception Rooms
- Energy Rating TBC, Popular Residential Location

OFFERS AROUND: £120,000
Viewing:

OFT Approved code

The Property Ombudsman SALES

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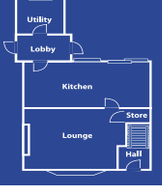
OR pauldubberley.mobi ON YOUR PHONE BROWSER

DIGITAL FLOOR PLANS



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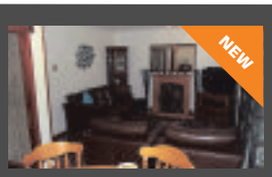


WEDNESBURY CHARLOTTE ROAD
- Rarely available detached bungalow
- 3 large bedrooms
- 'L' shaped reception hall
- Boarded loft with potential for substantial conversion
- Quality UVPC double glazing
- Combination central heating & cavity wall insulation
- Through lounge/dining room

OFFERS AROUND: £199,950

TIPTON WATERY LANE
- Detached home with three excellent bedrooms
- Canalside location in small cul-de-sac
- Large rear lounge / dining room
- Fitted kitchen
- Double glazing and central heating
- Superbly re-fitted family bathroom
- Garage
- Opposite Victoria Park, close to all amenities

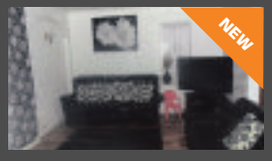
OFFERS OVER: £150,000

TIPTON GOSPEL OAK ROAD
- Superior Victorian end terrace
- Beautifully presented in a period style
- 3 bedrooms plus attic room
- 2 reception rooms & kitchen
- Family bathroom
- Double glazed sash windows
- Combination central heating
- Well placed to amenities

OFFERS AROUND: £119,950

TIPTON WHITEHOUSE STREET
- Well maintained and improved town house
- Three good sized bedrooms
- Though lounge / dining room
- Condensing central heating
- Double glazing
- Nicely presented kitchen and bathroom
- Block paved off road parking
- Downstairs WC

OFFERS AROUND: £119,950

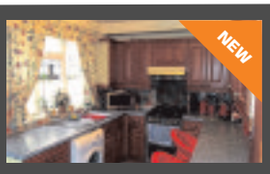


TIPTON DENBIGH ROAD
- Three bedroom semi detached family home
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Family shower room
- Off road parking with a garage
- Gardens to front and rear
- Rear lobby / utility room

OFFERS AROUND: £114,950

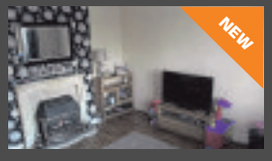
TIPTON SEDGLEY ROAD WEST
- Semi detached in established location
- 3 bedrooms
- 2 Receptions
- Off road parking, potential for garage
- Large rear garden
- Ideally placed to all amenities
- No central heating, in need of upgrading

OFFERS AROUND: £104,950



TIPTON TURTON ROAD
- Lovely semi in popular location
- 3 excellent bedrooms
- Nicely presented lounge and kitchen
- Bathroom with shower
- Majority double glazing and central heating
- Off road parking and garage
- Ideal family home
- Viewing recommended

OFFERS AROUND: £97,950



TIPTON CORONATION ROAD
- Nicely presented semi in established location
- Ideal family home close to all amenities
- 3 bedrooms, lounge and kitchen
- Double glazing and central heating
- Off road parking
- Enclosed rear garden ideal for children
- Excellent family home
- Viewing recommended

OFFERS AROUND: £93,950

see all our properties at

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TIPTON SHEEPWASH LANE
- New build four bedroom detached family home
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Fitted kitchen
- Downstairs shower room
- Family bathroom
- Double glazing and gas fired central heating
- Block paved driveway

OFFERS AROUND: £185,000

TIPTON CREW DRIVE
- Semi detached family home
- Four bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen
- En-suite to master
- Family bathroom
- Front & rear gardens

OFFERS AROUND: £174,950

TIPTON ST VINCENTS CRESCENT
- Semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen
- Timber garage
- Off road parking
- Rear garden

OFFERS AROUND: £105,000

TIPTON OXFORD WAY
- Modern detached home
- Four bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen
- Utility room
- Second lounge/ study
- En-suite to master

OFFERS AROUND: £217,500

OLDBURY THE LENCHES
- Detached home
- Four bedrooms
- Lounge & dining room
- Breakfast kitchen
- Downstairs w/c
- En-suite from master bedroom
- Garage and off road parking
- Front and rear gardens

OFFERS AROUND: £179,500

TIPTON MYRTLE TERRACE
- Three bedroom modern link detached
- Lounge/dining room
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Double glazing and gas fired central heating
- Garage
- Block paved driveway
- Front and rear gardens

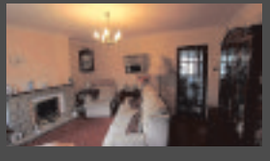
OFFERS AROUND: £167,995

TIPTON HENN DRIVE
- Semi detached property
- Three double bedrooms
- Lounge/dining room
- Breakfast kitchen
- Family bathroom
- Block paved driveway
- Garage

OFFERS AROUND: £129,995

TIPTON BATMANSHILL ROAD
- Semi-detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Dining area
- Ground floor bathroom
- Front & rear gardens
- Off road parking

OFFERS AROUND: £107,950



TIPTON GREENSILL AVENUE
- Three bedroom semi detached house
- Lounge
- Dining kitchen
- Front and rear gardens
- Double glazing (where specified)
- Central heating (where specified)
- Off road parking
- Upstairs family bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £104,995

Taylors

the property professionals

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SMETHWICK, Bartleet Road

Rare opportunity to acquire a spacious, delightfully presented 4 BEDROOMED DETACHED upon this popular development, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Entrance hall, sitting room/study, delightful lounge (archway to) dining area, fitted breakfast kitchen (having integral oven/hob), utility, downstairs w.c, 4 bedrooms (master with shower room en-suite), super re-fitted house bathroom, pleasant rear garden, LARGE DOUBLE GARAGE. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers in the region of £279,950

OLDBURY, Goodwyn Avenue

Deceptively spacious 3 bedroomed semi detached property occupying a pleasant cul-de-sac position within this popular neighbourhood, requiring some modernisation but offering potential, having double glazing and comprising :- Porch, entrance hall, lounge, separate dining room, kitchen, rear vestibule area, 3 bedrooms, shower room, drive providing off road parking, garage and rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC E BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers in the Region Of £154,950

SMETHWICK, Thimblemill Road

Well presented, spacious, 3 bed semi detached property conveniently situated and truly requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, majority double glazing and comprising :- Entrance hall, attractive lounge, dining/sitting room, re-fitted kitchen, conservatory, 3 good sized bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking, garage and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC E. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers in the Region Of £154,950

TIVIDALE, OLDBURY, Ashtree Road

Deceptively spacious, 3 bedroomed semi detached property conveniently situated, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining/ sitting room, attractive breakfast kitchen, side vestibule, downstairs shower room, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, garage and rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers around £129,950

BARTLEY GREEN, Napton Grove

A deceptively spacious, well presented, 3 bedroomed semi detached conveniently situated, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Porch, Entrance hall, delightful spacious lounge, super re-fitted dining kitchen (with integral oven/hob and dishwasher), utility, downstairs w.c, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, and pleasant rear garden. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers around £129,950

SMETHWICK, Hugh Road

Well presented, spacious, considerably improved, 3 bed semi detached set within this popular neighbourhood, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Entrance hall, delightful lounge, sitting room (opening through to): re-fitted dining kitchen, downstairs shower/wet room, side passage, utility, 3 bedrooms, bathroom and pleasant rear garden. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE.

Now available — Offers around £164,950

HARBORNE, Bantock Way

Rare opportunity to acquire a spacious 3 bed intermediate family home, within reasonable walking distance of Q.E. HOSPITAL, Having double glazing, part radiator heating and comprising :- Entrance vestibule, delightful through lounge, spacious dining kitchen, rear hall, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, separate w.c, and pleasant rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC C. BEARWOOD OFFICE

New price — WAS £169,950 NOW £164,950

SMETHWICK, Hales Lane

Delightfully presented, spacious, 3 bed semi detached conveniently situated, having gas radiator heating, double glaing and comprising :- Porch, entrance vestibule, delightful lounge, re-fitted kitchen, attractive conservatory, rear vestibule area (with downstairs w.c off), 3 bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking and pleasant good sized rear garden. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE.

Offers around £139,950

OLDBURY, Queensridge Court, Queensway

A spacious, 2 Bed GROUND FLOOR retirement flat, conveniently situated, approached via a communal Entrance and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, spacious open plan lounge/fitted kitchen area, 2 Bedrooms, shower/wet room, communal lounge, communal parking area. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC B. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers around £95,000 for a 75% share

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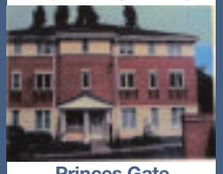
WEST BROMWICH

Cambridge Street

FOR SALE 3 bedroom property, 2 reception rooms, central heated and double glazed, bathroom with overhead shower, enclosed rear garden.

£109,500 Offers

WEST BROMWICH



Princes Gate

Modern 2 bedroom apartment, near the M5. Large reception room, Double glazed window, storage heating. Communal car park. Security intercom system to entrance. Available unfurnished.

£525

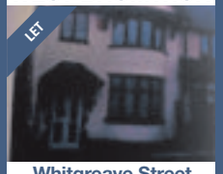
WEST BROMWICH

Brook Street

3 bedroom newly refurbished property, spacious lounge, kitchen with dining space, central heated and double glazed, off road parking. available unfurnished.

£595

WEST BROMWICH



Whitgreave Street

3 Bedroom property, two reception rooms, central heated and double glazed, first floor bathroom, off road parking, unfurnished

£525

WEST BROMWICH

Sydney Close

3 bedroom property with spacious lounge, ch and dg. Kitchen with dining space. first floor bathroom. off road parking available unfurnished.

£525

Tipton

Avern Close

Modern one bedroom apartment, storage heating, double glazed windows, spacious lounge and bedroom, available unfurnished. designated parking space.

£375

WEST BROMWICH

Wood Lane

3 bedroom end of terrace property, 2 reception rooms, ch and dg. ground floor bathroom with overhead shower. available unfurnished.

£499 pcm

WILLENHALL

Nottingham Drive

Selection of 2 and 3 bedroom flats, with large rection rooms and bedrooms, central heated and double glazed. unfurnished. Off road parking. AVAILABLE TO DHSS

From £100 pw

WEDNESBURY

Manifold Way

Modern
1 bedroom apartment, ch and dg, wood flooring, bathroom with shower. available unfurnished. designated parking space.

£425 pcm

WEST BROWICH

Europa Avenue

Spacious 4 bedroom property in the sandwell valley area, Reception room, dining area, spacious kitchen, first floor bathroom. Off road parking. Unfurnished

£750 pcm

Tipton

AWAITING PICTURE

Kenilworth Close

Lovely 3 bedroom property, large lounge, central heated and double glazed, first floor bathroom, garage and private drive. Unfurnished. Must be viewed.

£575

WEST BROMWICH

Elizabeth Road

Very spacious 3 bedroom house, lounge, dining room, first floor bathroom, central heated and double glazed, off road parking, Unfurnished.

£580

OLDBURY

Borough Crescent

A very large 5 bedroom property, Reception room, dining room, ground floor bedroom with ensuite, 4 further bedrooms 1 with ensuite, central heated and double glazed, off road parking, available furnished/part furnished

£895

WALSALL

Hospital Street

4 bedroom semi-detached house, spacious lounge, central heated and double glazed. front and rear gardens. Unfurnished

£500

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Four-bedroom property is close to town centre

THIS modern four-bed property in The Bantocks, West Bromwich lies on a popular estate close to the town centre. It is for sale through Paul Dubberley at offers in excess of £240,000.

Well presented throughout in neutral shades, it has a porch, entrance hall with stairs off, a through lounge, kitchen, a converted garage with a walk-in shower cubicle, utility room and downstairs WC.

There is a well-maintained rear garden. A side gate leads to a full width drive at the front. Call 0121 525 2111 or visit www.pauldubberley.co.uk

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CHURCH VALE, B71 4DD

- A Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Planning For Extension
- Freehold, No Upward Chain
- EPC TBC, Corner Plot

£249,950

HOPE ROAD, DY4 7DF

- An End Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Ideal First Time Buy/ Investors
- Driveway, No Upward Chain
- Freehold, EPC TBC

£99,950

RICHARD WILLIAMS ROAD, WS10

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating And Double Glazed
- Freehold
- EPC RATING D

£107,950

POMMEL CLOSE, WS5 4QE

- A Ground Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Central Heating, Double Glazed
- Conservatory
- EPC RATING C, Leasehold

£79,000

SAMS LANE, B70 7EG

- A Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Double Glazing And Central Heating
- Freehold

£99,000

SHAW ROAD, DY4 7QA

- An End Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- No Upward Chain, Freehold
- EPC RATING D

£105,000

ARLINGTON ROAD, B71 1AA

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Two Reception Rooms
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£169,950

HEATH LANE, B71 2BW

- A Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Extended
- Through Lounge
- EPC RATING E, Freehold

£203,950

WHITEGREAVE STREET, B70 9BB

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Off Road Parking & Rear Garden
- EPC RATING F

WAS 124,950 NOW £114,950

HILLARY AVENUE, WS10 0HE

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Front And Rear Gardens
- Lounge, Off Road Parking
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£124,950

WESTMORE WAY, WS10 0TR

- A Link Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Double Glazed & Central Heating
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£155,000

WHITTINGTON CLOSE, B71 3EX

- A Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Vacant Possession And Freehold
- EPC RATING C, ONLINE AUCTION

Guide Price Of £79,950

HOPKINS DRIVE, B71 3RR

- A Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Majority Double Glazed
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

WAS £224,950 NOW £220,000

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CHARLEMONT ROAD, B71 3DX

- A Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms, Freehold
- Sought After Location
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£134,950

DAWES AVENUE, B70 7LS

- An End Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Front & Rear Gardens
- EPC RATING C, Freehold

£109,950

HYDES ROAD, WS10 0DF

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Garage, Off Road Parking To Rear
- EPC RATING E, Freehold

£124,950

CRANKHALL LANE, WS10 0DY

- An End Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating
- EPC RATING E

£99,950

CARISBROOKE ROAD, WS10 0HZ

- A Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Large Conservatory
- Central Heating, Double Glazed
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£104,950

BASSETT ROAD, WS10 0HH

- A Mid Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Majority Double Glazing
- Central Heating
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£94,950

VICARAGE ROAD, B71 1AE

- A Mid Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Downstairs W.C
- EPC RATING C, Freehold

£127,000

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DUE TO ROAD CLOSURE, BUT ARE
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14/63 **VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CDTi 16V ecoFLEX SRi (130)** Start Stop Diesel White, Estate, 12,000 miles £12,995
14/14 **VAUXHALL VIVARO 1.6 SWB** Diesel, New Shape/New Model, Silver, delivery miles ..... £14,995+VAT
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13/13 **VAUXHALL ANTARA 2.2 CDTi Exclusiv** 5 door, Black, 11k miles . £13995
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05/54 **TOYOTA AVENSIS VERSO 2.0 VVTi T Spirit** 5 door, 71k miles, Silver £4250
07/07 **VAUXHALL CORSA 1.6T 16v VXR** Arden Blue, 3 door, 49k miles £6995
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New VW Passat is well worth close look

By Ian Donaldson

You will be familiar with the law of diminishing returns, where you pay increasingly large amounts of money for ever smaller improvements.

It applies, especially, to consumer goods, from watches to mobile phones ... and cars.

Now, you might be thinking 'is this going to apply to the new VW Passat, reviewed here?'

Well, it costs about £1,000 more than the outgoing, seventh edition Passat, but you don't need to travel far to conclude it's worth every extra penny.

Prices start at £22,215 and top out for the moment at £37,035, although other models are in the pipeline, of course, which will add technology and swell the bottom line.

The VW Group (which takes in VW, Audi, Seat and Skoda, among others, remember), sells more Passats around the world than any other of its models, selling one somewhere every 29 seconds.

Which makes the new Passat a very important car indeed, especially as the boss of the VW brand said recently his bit of the group had to make more money as he watched Audi coining it in, not to speak of Porsche, where profit arrives by the turbocharged shed load.

You can just imagine the midnight oil burned to make sure nothing is left to chance when a new Passat is on the drawing board.

So, here we have a car that's smaller than before in length and height (if a little wider) but which offers more room inside for people and their luggage. To the extent that there's real leg stretching room in the rear for six-footers, while the boot varies from huge in the saloon, to ballroom proportioned in the estate and surely big enough for the largest of growing families.

Generation eight Passat also comes with engines that emit fewer nasty gases, have better fuel consumption and, depending on version and ticked option boxes, a host of clever technology.

You can, for instance, have a car that steers for you when reversing a caravan, or one that hits the brakes hard if you fail to slow for a pedestrian who steps into the road.

Or how about a Passat that brakes, accelerates and steers for you in stop-go traffic. Yes, really.

Destined

Here in the UK we'll likely buy a shade more estates than saloons and all will have diesels under their flat, wide bonnets as it's deemed not worth the bother importing petrol versions as almost nobody would buy one.

That's because nearly every Passat sold here is destined for the company car park and diesels make a compelling case for business users. They won't be disappointed. On the right, smoothly finished, road the new Passat makes almost no noise.

It's such a quality, hushed place to go to work in that your typically time-short business user is going to arrive for the next meeting as fresh and relaxed as when he (or she) left the office two hours before.

The Passat is, thankfully, no sports car but it tackles corners with some enthusiasm while making sure the comfort of all aboard is more important than track honed reactions.

There's added comfort from the electrically adjustable seats in the SE and SE Business level cars, the latter adding satellite navigation and, combined, likely to take the bulk of UK sales.

These two cars also have adaptive cruise control and front and rear parking sensors; yet more features to ease a business person's progress through the working day.

Helping too will be the thought that there is precious little to be gained by spending more money on a car (yes, probably another German) that really offers no more than the new Passat but carries a badge with more prestige.

A clear case of diminishing returns ...

Smart, well put together, stylish and sensible but little pricey

By Matt Joy

The changes might be minuscule, but the S6 remains an absolute tour de force for those who can't live without a big V8 in their lives.

Audi has pressed the refresh button on the full A6 range, so the muscle-bound S6 saloon and Avant estate get the same (tiny) makeover. The grille now has twin bars running across it instead of single, thicker ones, and the headlights, bumper and air inlets have been slightly reshaped.

Don some X-ray specs and you'll see adaptive air suspension set to 20mm lower than the standard A6, while the brake calipers are now matt black, the rear diffuser has an aluminium-look blade and the full-LED headlights are ever-so-slightly slimmer.

The wider changes to the base car have made it a better-looking platform for the S and, in 2015, the RS development teams to deal with.

Side skirts that jut out more prominently, 19-inch twin-spoke alloy wheels and those flashy headlights give it great window shopping appeal.

But the S6's civility is stuffed deep down inside its bag of tricks and there's no getting rid of it. At first glance this could just be an S-line spec A6, and its relative understatement is one of the qualities that help it sell so well.

In finest fast Audi tradition you can choose an estate model as well as the saloon. The wagon is a bit heavier, not that you'll notice unless you take it on a track day, but it's prettier and as roomy as an empty shed.

Quality

The question marks have to come further forward, in the passenger zone. With such shapely seats and high-quality leathers cocooning you like a Persian prince, the S6 is better for luxuriating than it is for folding the seats down and throwing a load of planks into.

It's just too well-appointed for that.

Turbocharging a V8 gets you lots of things; power and speed being two. The S6 is as rapid as the people who take used plates away at all-you-can-eat buffets, and it doesn't feel particularly like a turbocharged engine. It pulls harder and harder with a barrel-chested bellow as the revs rise, a lot like the engines of S-car generations past.

Grip and traction are beyond what you'd ever be able to exploit on the road. The way it drags itself so violently but so steadily out of tight corners is uncanny. G-force has never been so unthreatening.

Most roads simply aren't big enough for the S6 to stretch its legs, but at normal speeds it's as stable as Ayers Rock. Sure, it's firm over bumps on its huge (optional) 21-inch wheels, but if history has taught us anything it's that Audi buyers don't tend to mind sacrificing ride quality for aesthetics.

At £56,000, the saloon is not a cheap car. And at that price Audi kindly leaves a lot of the technology and luxury that you're likely to want on the options list, so quickly totting up beyond £60,000 is a given.

It's big, hugely capable and prestigious, but smaller premium-brand cars that will do the job just as well could offer a much better value alternative.

The S6 is a gentleman's express; a large, powerful and long-legged car with the ability to cross continents at speed without breaking a sweat.

It's not particularly affordable or cheap to run, but it is very lovely.

If money is no problem and the new looks light your fire more than ever, this is a solid choice that won't leave you disappointed.

This car summed up in a word: Suave.

If this car were a ...: suit, it would be from Marks & Spencer. It's smart, well put together and stylish, but eminently sensible.

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6 Property

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WILL PAY 15K MORE
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A BETTER CASH DEAL PAID for your property every time. 01902 628047.

properties wanted

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24 hours

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accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

BEDSITS TO LET Single person only. In Rugeley / Hednesford area. 07932 904896.

MODERN STUDIO FLATS, West Bromwich near town centre, no deposits / low rents, DSS 35+ welcome. Move in from as little as £15 07967 016425

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Studios from £90pw*
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Midland Landlord Accreditation Scheme

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

7 Jobs

building & construction

PLUMBERS AND HEATING ENGINEERS required. Experienced engineers required for sites in and around the West Midlands. Good rates / price work available. Must have CSCS card.
Please call us on 0121 350 9929 or email CV to info@spectrumem.org.uk

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drivers

CLASS 1 DRIVER. Must have Moffatt Licence. £11.00ph. Overtime available. No nights out. Not agency work. 0121 500 4907

CLASS 2 DRIVER required full time. The Applicant will be required to drive our 18 Tonne Vehicle to cover between 4-5 drops per day and be responsible for cleaning and general maintenance of the Vehicle. Hours: 6.00am - 2.30pm Daily, 5 days a week, plus any overtime required. CV to CRF Sections Ltd, Hale Trading Estate, Lower Church Lane, Tipton DY4 7PQ.

CLASS 2 HIAB DRIVER wanted. Willing to train suitable applicant. Tipton. 07970 129855 after 6pm

JOBS & PERTEMPS

HGV1 WEEKEND DRIVERS required
Cannock
Shifts available both Friday & Saturday
AM & PM Shifts
Palletised deliveries of ambient goods
Work available every weekend
Upto £17PH
Please call Craig at Pertemps on 0121 500 5161

electricians

DOMESTIC ELECTRICIANS required for contracts around the West Midlands area. Contact 0121 502 2117.

employment wanted

CLEANER REQUIRES CLEANING DUTIES.
Domestic private houses required.
Good references supplied.
20 years experience.
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full time - general

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MBP

- OFFICE SALES
- ESTIMATING
- CONTRACT MANAGEMENT
- CNC MACHINISTS
- WOOD WORKING STAFF

Suitable applicants will have good communication skills, a proven work history and good IT skills such as Excel & Word. Salaries will be negotiable depending on position applied for and experience.

Apply in writing to Peter Zarelli, Midland Building Products, Units 6-11 Spartan Industrial Centre, Brickhouse Lane, West Bromwich B70 0DH.

Dalair Limited

ASSEMBLY FITTERS

We are a UK leading Air handling Unit Manufacturer looking to recruit assembly fitters of all ages/experience to construct and fit out bespoke units. The ideal candidates would be enthusiastic with a concept of a production environment.

This is an excellent opportunity with long term prospects for individuals to progress with a leading/growing organisation.

Please send applications with full CV to: Mr. P. Shore - HR Manager Dalair Limited, Southern Way, Wednesbury WS10 7BU.
Email: pjs@dalair.co.uk

KELTRUCK

Parts Advisor Nightshift

Monday to Friday (50hrs per week) 7.00pm to 5.00am

Clean valid driving licence. Salary negotiable @ interview. Experience in an Automotive Parts dept would be advantageous

Paintshop Vehicle Preparation & Sprayer

Monday to Friday (40hrs per week)
8.00am to 4.30pm Overtime available

Busy productive environment , suit flexible, self-motivated reliable individual used to working to very high standards & meet strict deadlines.

Contact Pat Radford, telephone: 0121 524 1801

Phoenix primary care

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Collingwood Family Practice - Great Barr
Salary - Dependant on experience. Hours - up to 37.5 hours per week

We deliver high quality care from 7 GP Practices and a Walk in Health Centre in Walsall, North Birmingham and Bedford.

Practices are open six days a week and provide services on two late evenings and on Saturday mornings.

Applicants applying for this post must demonstrate excellent customer care, written & Verbal communication and LT Skills. Experience working in a General Practice environment would be an advantage.

If you are interested please forward your CV and covering letter to John Brett, Director of Operations & Performance Phoenix Primary Care Limited, Collingwood Health Centre, Collingwood Drive, Great Barr ,Birmingham, B43 7NF.
Closing Date Friday 20th February 2015

Sandwell College West Bromwich

Lecturer in Body Repair Paint Automotive

£23,605- £33,653 per annum
Full Time; Permanent

We have a fantastic opportunity to appoint a highly motivated and enthusiastic individual for the role of Lecturer in Body Repair Paint Automotive. Successful candidates must hold a strong industry experience in the Body and Paint Automotive sector and should hold a Level 4 teaching qualification.

Successful candidates will teach Levels 1 to 3 on City and Guilds related to Body and Paint programmes. A full Job Description and Person Specification is available to download from http://www.latestvacancies.com/sandwell/ where applications should be submitted online by clicking on the "Apply" button.

Closing Date: 5 February 2015

engineering

JIG AND FIXTURE Engineer / Assembler Required to assemble in-house designed Jigs and checking fixtures for the Automotive and associated industries. Applicants to possess general engineering skills and able to work as part of a highly motivated and skilled team. Please telephone Summit Patternmaking Co Ltd 0121 344 3943

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8 Motoring

cars under £1500

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PEUGEOT 406 SE HDI Estate, auto, high miles, short MoT, runs lovely, £450. 07434 481812.

RENAULT MODUS 54 reg, 2 months MoT, excellent condition, 2 lady owners, fsh, alloys, pas, dark blue, £1,195. 07921 706807.

VOLVO S40 XS 2000 reg, 67000mls only, full MoT, Totally immaculate, every Volvo extra, bereavement forces sale, £500. 07486 188 412.

VW POLO 1.0, 2001 reg, 90,000 miles, PAS, EM, CL, MoT November 2015, good condition, £595 ono. 07400 940963.

cars over £1500

IMMACULATE

LEXUS IS220D
2007, 96,000 miles, black, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, alarm, long MoT cream/leather heated seats, 6 speed manual.
£4,700 ono.
07989 694267.

commercial vehicles

FIAT DUCATO 2.0 turbo joiners van, full MoT Feb 2016. No VAT, excellent condition. 136k £1,700. 01785 255587 or 07757 290963.

VAUXHALL VIVARO 2.5
Black Crew cab van, automatic, top spec, electric mirrors/ windows, air con, Sat Nav, abs, CD player. Bott tool storage to rear.
£4,200 ono.
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VANS! CAMPERS! MOT FAILURES!
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spares & accessories

spares/parts

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LICENSING ACT 2003
Application has been made by Steven Mawi, to The Licensing Authority of Sandwell Council, for a Premises Licence in respect of premises to be know as:
Family Shopper, 54, Surfeit Hill Road, Cradley Heath, West Midlands B64 7EB.
The application includes the following terms: to enable the sale of alcohol between Monday-Sunday 07.00-23.00 hours, for consumption off the premises.
Full details of the application may be viewed at the Council Offices, Trading Standards and Licensing Homes and Communities Directorate, Sandwell Council House, PO Box 2372, Oldbury, B69 3BS.
During normal office hours, Monday to Friday, Email: Licensing_Team@sandwell.gov.uk
Any representations by responsible authorities, or other persons regarding the application, must be made in writing to the above Licensing Authority and they must be received no later than 3rd March 2015.
It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5000.

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

HIGHWAYS AGENCY

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14(1)(A) THE M5 MOTORWAY (JUNCTIONS 2 TO 1, SANDWELL) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2015

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Secretary of State for Transport intends to make an Order on the M5 Motorway in the Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell to allow renewal work to be carried out to the electronic vehicle detection system.

The effect of the Order will be to close the northbound carriageway of the M5 from its junction with the exit slip road at Junction 2, to its junction with the entry slip road at Junction 1.

The work will be carried out over one night between 20.00 hours and 06:00 hours and is expected to start on Tuesday 3 March 2015. The Order will come into force on Tuesday 24 February 2015.

Vehicles being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes and vehicles being used in connection with the works or by a traffic officer will be exempt from the closure. A diversion route via the A4123, A4034, A457 and A4252 will be signed.

For further information, please contact Darren Pilsbury on 01926 939993.

Mike Lloyd, a Higher Executive Officer in the Highways Agency

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SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Economy
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

This is a major application.

DC/14/57770	Hallbridge Way Properties Ltd	Bus Depot Cross Quays Business Park Hallbridge Way Oldbury B69 3HW	Proposed re-grading of embankment including a retaining wall to enable enlarging of existing car park.

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE (between 8.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.00a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

Mr Nick Bubalo, Area Director – Regeneration and Economy

10 Personals

personal

★★★

A BRITISH BORN INDIAN MAN
would like to meet white, English women for holidays, wine bars, days in/out, age 40-50.
Box Number P19673, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

★★★

TALL 68 YEAR OLD WIDOW
Looking for Male Friend for company in the Walsall area.
Box Number P19670 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

TRINITY ST, WEST BROMWICH
Looking for anyone who witnessed an Accident, 10th February, 2014, at 6.40pm.
Please contact: 07576 331 775.

URGENT LOOKING FOR ANYONE
Who attended Tennal School (Approved), between the years 1950 to 1960. Please contact Box Number below.
Box Number P19674 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

general

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13th February

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Scouting For Goals live up to name

Pulse football

SCOUTING For Goals made it two wins from two in the Pulse Wednesbury Tuesday night five-a-side league with an impressive 15-7 win over W.S.U.

Coming into the game on the back of a comfortable victory in their opening contest, they knew a win was vital here as they look to build a good platform for what they hope will be a title winning season.

And they produced a scintillating display to do just that, their attacking play proving far too much for a vulnerable W.S.U defence which has now conceded 25 goals, a problem they have to address if they are to recover from their poor start.

The result sees Scouting For Goals become the early season pacesetters, but with plenty of games still to be played, they will be keen to avoid any complacency as they bid to stay at the summit.

That Team maintained their 100 per cent record, eventually overcoming Unreal Madrid 11-6 in a hard-fought encounter.

Despite the score line looking fairly convincing, Unreal pushed their opponents all the way in a superb match, but That Team's extra bit of class eventually told in an entertaining contest.

The other game of the night saw Athletico Madras bounce back from losing their first match, beating Inter YN 6-3.

Defences were on top for the majority of the 40 minutes, but Madras' extra firepower up front eventually told, helping them to their first win of the campaign.

It was a tough loss for Inter, but both teams have shown in their first couple of contests that they have the talent to challenge for honours.

Jake's the hero with a winner on debut

Halesowen 2 Stamford 1

NEW signing Jake Jones proved an instant hit for Halesowen, coming off the bench to score the winner in a 2-1 victory at Stamford with just two minutes left.

Jones signed recently from Kings Lynn but was a substitute, whilst Joe Hull did start and made his 100th appearance for the Yeltz in the Evo-Stik Premier clash.

Halesowen had to soak up a lot of pressure in the first half from The Daniels, who are still yet to win at the newly built Zeeco Stadium.

But Iyseden Christie gave them the lead five minutes before the break when he capitalised on a mistake in the home defence to take the ball around the goalkeeper and score.

Again Stamford attacked frantically at the start of the second half and it paid off on 52 minutes when Jordan Smith was on hand to turn in a Ryan Robbins cross

Jones proved to be the hero with just a minute of ordinary time to go when Elliot Turner's shot cannoned off the bar into his path and he knocked it in for the winner, the result seeing Halesowen move into 10th place in the Evo Stik Northern Premier.

Gunners go ballistic to shoot down Villa

Arsenal 5 Villa 0

VILLA were sunk by a second-half spree that saw Arsenal close the gap on the Premier League top four.

And while Villa's goal drought continues, of equal concern for Paul Lambert will be the ease with which the Gunners ripped apart his team's defence. Olivier Giroud put the Gunners ahead on eight minutes.

Football

Following an improved spell by Villa, whose last Premier League goal came against Manchester United on December 20, Ozil doubled Arsenal's lead early in the second half with another well-taken breakaway finish.

Theo Walcott scored his second in as many games to make it 3-0 on 63 minutes, with Santi Cazorla adding a fourth from the penalty spot before full-back Hector Bellerin rolled in his first senior Arsenal goal in stoppage time.

The visitors were cut open on eight minutes as Arsenal took the lead. Ozil's expert volleyed pass from the centre-circle over the high Villa backline allowed Giroud to race clear. The France forward kept his composure, carrying the ball into the penalty area as Jores Okore tried to get back to cover, before chipping an angled, left-foot shot across Brad Guzan and into the bottom right corner.

Villa had settled into a spell of possession, without making progress in the final third, when Arsenal suddenly sprung into life again on 26 minutes.

Cazorla weaved to the edge of the Villa penalty area and sent a low shot goalwards, which beat Guzan but cannoned off the foot of the left-hand post.

On 41 minutes, Villa were close to breaking their goal drought when a bullet header from Andreas Weimann was saved brilliantly at point-blank range by David Ospina.

Villa had, though, set an unwanted record of some 570 minutes without a league goal, which continued to rise as the Clock End ticked into the second half.

Arsenal doubled their lead on 56 minutes.

Walcott broke down the right, feeding Giroud, who laid the ball off to Ozil to clip a left-foot finish into the bottom right corner.

Arsenal were in cruise control, and went 3-0 ahead on 63 minutes through Walcott.

Arsenal were awarded a penalty on 75 minutes when Guzan upended substitute Chuba Akpom, and although the American got a hand to Cazorla's spot-kick he could not keep it out.

In stoppage-time Bellerin stroked home a fifth from just outside the box.

Arsenal's Aaron Ramsey, left, challenges Villa's Carles Gil during the rout at Emirates Stadium

Caution as Brum fixtures released

SPEEDWAY fixtures for Cradley and Birmingham's National League campaign have been released – but with a note of caution.

The Heathens have five away matches where the date has yet to be confirmed – including a Perry Barr derby against the Brummies, pencilled in for Wednesday, August 19. But the draft list was issued anyway.

Cradley fixtures, National League unless stated:

March: 18, Birmingham (Challenge) A, 25 Birmingham (CH) H.

April: 8 Coventry H, 22 Eastbourne H.

May: 13 Mildenhall H, 24 Eastbourne A, 27 Birmingham H.

June: 10 Kent H, 21 Mildenhall A, 24 Reserved H.

July: 8 Stoke H, 22 Buxton H.

August: 12 Golden Hammer (Individual) H, 15 Stoke A, 26 King's Lynn H, 29 Rye House A.

September: 9 Rye House H.

Away fixtures against Coventry, Buxton, Kent, King's Lynn and Birmingham to be confirmed.

Birmingham fixtures, National League unless stated:

March: 18 Cradley (Challenge) H, 25 Cradley (CH) A.

April: 3 Stoke H, 15 Rye House H.

May: 6 King's Lynn H, 20 Eastbourne (Knockout Cup) H, 27 Cradley A, 31 Eastbourne (KOC) A.

June: 1 Kent A, 3 Buxton H, 17 Coventry H, 27 Stoke A.

July: 1 Mildenhall H, 8 King's Lynn A, 15 Kent H, 17 Coventry A, 25 Rye House A.

August: 2 Mildenhall A, 5 Reserved H, 16 Buxton A, 23 Eastbourne A.

September: 2 Eastbourne H, 16 Reserved H, 30 Joe Thurley Memorial H.

Home fixture against Cradley to be confirmed.

Club looks for new recruits

WEST Bromwich Ladies, who play in Staffordshire Hockey League Division 2, are looking to recruit more players for this season and next.

The hockey club is one of the oldest in the Midlands having been formed in 1885.

Training is every Tuesday at Sandwell Academy, with matches being played at the same pitch and George Salter Collegiate Academy on Saturdays.

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Anyone interested in joining the club, either female or male, can contact Lucy on 07798 807 153 or visit www.westbromhc.co.uk for details.

Baggies are offered ace Forlan

ALBION have been offered the chance to bid for veteran striker Diego Forlan as Shola Ameobi looks set to join Crystal Palace.

The Baggies have been contacted about a possible deal for Forlan, who is eyeing a second crack at Premier League football following his unsuccessful stint at Manchester United.

But boss Tony Pulis is still considering whether to pursue an interest in Forlan, who has also been offered to Hull and West Ham.

Forlan is currently playing for Japanese side Cerezo Osaka, but his contract expires in the summer and is believed to be available for loan until the end of the season. Forlan struggled at Old Trafford.

Dorrans is still hoping for move

GRAHAM DORRANS could resurrect his move from Albion to Norwich when the loan window opens.

The Scotland international's permanent switch to Carrow Road collapsed on transfer deadline day but the Canaries have contacted the Baggies about a loan switch.

Dorrans is aware of the interest in him and is keen to discuss the move, although no deal has yet been agreed.

The 27-year-old is likely to slip further down the midfield pecking order at The Hawthorns following the arrival of Darren Fletcher from Manchester United and it is believed Albion would not stand in his way if he is keen to move to Norfolk in search of regular football.

However, they must still agree a deal with Norwich over the player's wages and that could prove a stumbling block.

Dorrans would be one of Norwich's highest earners and Olsson leaving the club's wagebill was expected to help them balance the books.

Olsson was expected to join Albion in the final hour of Monday's transfer window but the deal was never completed after he failed to complete his medical in time.

Reanne keeps Masters title

DUDLEY'S Reanne Evans has retaining her Eden Resources Masters title at the Crucible Sports Bar, Newbury.

Evans, world champion for the past 10 years, took the £850 first prize when she beat Hong Kong-based world No.2 Ng On Yee 5-1 in the final.

During the two-day event the 30-year-old produced several sizeable breaks including a 104 against Hong Kong's So Man Yan in the qualifying stages, for which she also took the high break prize of £50, and also saw off fellow Dudley player Maria Catalano in the last four.

Evans was pleased with her form and now has her sights set on yet another world title at the Northern Snooker Centre in Leeds in April.

"I'm now looking forward to defending the world championship," she said.

Fletcher must prove himself again at Baggies

Football

ALBION new-boy Darren Fletcher says he must prove himself all over again after swapping Manchester United's quest for titles for the Baggies' battle against relegation.

Fletcher insists he is ready for the Premier League survival scrap after arriving on Monday in a free-transfer beat-the-deadline deal.

But he admits that his achievements at Old Trafford, which include five Premier League titles and a Champions League winner's medal, count for little now.

"Everything you've done in the past is all well and good but you've got to go out and prove yourself in every game and this is a new challenge for me so I am going to have to go and prove myself to the fans," said the 31-year-old.

"My aim is to progress the club, to get us back up the league, finishing in the top half and things like that.

"I want good cup runs and to play as many games as I can and earn the respect of the fans and hopefully they will enjoy me as a player in the time I'm here. It is a different challenge but it's one that I'm well aware of.

"I know the position that the club are in right now and I don't want to be down there.

"We want to stay in the league and push up the league.

"I'm more than aware of that, I know what's in store and I'm here to help and to get the team where I think they belong."

And Fletcher, who was Albion's only deadline-day addition, revealed Baggies boss Tony Pulis played a key role in luring him to The Hawthorns. I know of West Brom's history and I have been here many times playing but the manager was a big pull," said Fletcher.

"We had a few conversations and he really sold the club and his ideas to me.

"It's great when a manager really wants you and lets that be known and every conversation we had was fantastic," said Fletcher.

"I have great respect for him and he was someone I really wanted to play for but I knew I was coming to a great club as well," he added.

SPURS SHOW UP ALBION'S FAULTS

Albion 0 Spurs 3

TOTTENHAM left the Midlands with a routine, comfortable 3-0 win.

In doing so Spurs shone a bright light on the deficiencies in Pulis's current squad. The Albion head coach knew all about them before the game. He has been banging the drum for reinforcements ever since he walked through the door.

But if he needed his point underlining for the benefit of others, his players did a pretty good job as they handed Spurs victory on a plate.

The news was not all bad for Pulis. His side played more slick football and created more chances in a good 20-minute spell before half-time than they have managed in any previous game on his watch.

Absolutes

Yet the pragmatic new boss does not seem one to 'take the positives'.

Pulis deals in absolutes and he will know that the entertaining but brief rally at the end of the first half was meaningless after his side's frailties conspired to gift Spurs a 2-0 lead they never looked like surrendering.

Despite being laid low with flu ahead of his debut, new-boy Callum McManaman showed enough flashes of his pace and direct style to suggest he can be a useful acquisition.

Yet Pulis needs much more help before he has the tools he needs to do the job he has been given. And as the final whistle blew on a disappointing afternoon at

Football

The Hawthorns, the Welshman knew his employers were running out of time.

The sight of Joleon Lescott plugging away manfully at left-back but looking limited in the extreme highlighted one area the boss will be desperate to improve, especially if it allows him to get the influential Lescott back into the heart of defence.

The start could not have been worse for Pulis's men.

On six minutes Claudio Yacob was guilty of a needless foul on Mousa Dembele on the edge of the Albion box and Christian Eriksen bent a fine free-kick over the wall and in with Ben Foster apparently caught off-balance.

And it got worse nine minutes later when dreadful defending allowed the visitors to double their lead when Harry Kane blasted a shot past Foster for his 19th goal of the season.

On 64 minutes Dawson gave away possession 35 yards from goal, Lescott was penalised for blocking Kyle Walker's cross with his arm and Kane struck home the spot-kick to kill the game.

Craig Dawson of West Bromwich Albion in the thick of the action against Spurs at the Hawthorns

Albion's transfer disaster

ALBION have suffered a double deadline-day disappointment as deals for Carlton Cole and Martin Olsson broke down – but Darren Fletcher signed on a free transfer from Manchester United.

The Baggies had looked poised to announce a high-profile triple swoop for former Scotland captain Fletcher, West Ham striker Cole and Norwich full-back Olsson.

But the Hammers pulled the plug on Cole's move at the 11th hour with the veteran target man waiting at the Albion training ground after agreeing personal terms and passing a medical.

And Olsson's proposed move from Norwich was not completed after late hitches, with Graham Dorrans' move in the opposite direction also called off.

Fletcher was the only deadline-day arrival, leaving boss Tony Pulis inevitably disappointed after making a striker his No.1 priority.

The head coach called off record signing Brown Ideye's proposed move to Al-Gharafa in Qatar after the collapse of the Cole deal happened.

Lambert turns back on Villa

VILLA'S late move for Rickie Lambert on transfer deadline day failed because the life-long Liverpool fan was unwilling to leave Anfield.

The England frontman was recruited in the summer by Reds boss Brendan Rodgers, but decided the switch to Villa, at a reported £5m was not for him.

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